

Organizations

Letter O1. Signatory – Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council

From: "Steve hampar" <sold@thehustlefactor.com>
To: <IRP-EIR@san.lacity.org>
Date: Thu, Feb 23, 2006 1:51 PM
Subject: Re:sewer line in Toluca Lake

Stephen Hampar

Sandra Hampar

10247 Valley Spring Lane, Toluca Lake, Ca 91602

818.687.4915

Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council

Dear Sirs/ Madam,

After going to the meeting last night at Honey Baked Ham, we are making a strong request that the sewer NOT be routed through any residential areas of Toluca Lake. Why not rework, retrofit, update the same route you currently have? This project will be extremely disruptive to the residents during construction, even with the best made plans. More importantly, even with all the "high tech" equipment, there is always unsurity with settling issues that can occur. Look at all the issues and problem there were with the Metro rail. We don't want these potential problems right next to our homes that would affect our lives on an ongoing basis. Our homes and properties are the biggest investment most of us have. We don't want any chance that a project such as this could jeopardize this! I don't think anyone can absolutely guarantee the outcome of your project.

O1-1

Lastly, as a Realtor, a project like this would be a disclosure item when a home is for sale. Just the fact that a project is on the books in the future, could, and most likely would negatively affect the sale, and value of the property. It could even scare off potential buyers.

We strongly urge you to reroute your project to a nonresidential location.

Regards,

Stephen Hampar

Response to Comment O1-1

As described in Section 1.3 of the Draft EIR, one of the objectives of the IRP is meet the projected wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles and its contract agencies. To meet this objective, the City must provide adequate wastewater conveyance and treatment to ensure public health and safety of all system users and of the public as a whole. One of the purposes of NEIS II and GBIS is to provide hydraulic relief to the existing NOS, which conveys wastewater flows from the San Fernando Valley, including wastewater generated in the Cities of Burbank and Glendale, to one or more treatment plants. Because these new sewers would relieve flows in the NOS, they must be located in the vicinity of the existing NOS. The NEIS II and GBIS alignments described in Sections 2.2.1.9 and 2.2.1.10, respectively, of the Draft EIR are considered reasonable alignments because they are generally located in the vicinity of the existing NOS, they would provide hydraulic relief to the NOS, and would directly meet the objective of protecting public health and safety for the areas served by the NOS. In addition, sewers are a key infrastructure that supports every type of land use in the City; therefore, sewers are sited close to where wastewater is generated, which means sewers are located in residential, commercial, and/or industrial areas.

Specific to Toluca Lake, the portion of the existing NOS in the Toluca Lake area extends beneath Valley Spring Lane, which is also the proposed route for the GBIS South Alignment. The NOS was built in the later 1930s and is in need of hydraulic relief and portions will require rehabilitation. The City intends to rehabilitate the existing NOS. However, because rehabilitation would reduce hydraulic capacity, and hydraulic relief is imperative for the NOS, construction of GBIS is needed before the existing NOS can be rehabilitated.

Short-term construction associated with the Project Alternatives would be disruptive to adjacent properties. As described in detail

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in Section 2.2.1.9 and Section 2.2.1.10 of the Draft EIR, however, a majority of the construction (as well as operation) of the proposed sewer infrastructure would occur belowground. The majority of construction activities would be localized and occur at the shaft sites, while limited surface construction impacts would occur at various locations along the alignment associated with surface grouting, maintenance holes, drop structures, diversion structures and ATFs. All reasonable efforts have been made to reduce impacts to the public and Section 3 of the Draft EIR discloses and mitigates the impacts associated with construction, as appropriate. Refer to Table ES-1 of the Executive Summary of the Draft EIR and Final EIR for a summary of the potential impacts by resource area, mitigation measures added to reduce impacts, and any impacts remaining after mitigation, as detailed in Section 3 of the Draft EIR.

Regarding concerns about the potential for surface settlement during construction of GBIS in the Toluca Lake area, there is always a potential for settlement with underground construction, and although mitigation measures will be applied to limit the potential for surface settlement, a residual significant impact has been identified in Section 3.9.3.3 of the Draft EIR. The detailed discussion of settlement issues is under the Impact GEO-2 discussion on page 3.9-52 of the Draft EIR. Based on the potential surface settlement impacts, mitigation measures were required and described on page 3.9.53 of the Draft EIR to minimize the potential for surface settlement. However, even with mitigation, the potential for surface settlement cannot be completely eliminated (see page 3.9-54 of Draft EIR). The City has reassessed mitigation measure GEO-MM-2, which limits surface settlement to 0.75-inch, and has added a goal to further limit surface settlement along the tunnel to 0.50-inch, which would further minimize the potential for surface settlement (see Section 2 of this Final EIR). In addition, as described on page 3.9-53 of the Draft EIR, numerous other measures to control surface settlement would be applied, including compaction grouting to fill voids in the soil, grouting in advance of the tunnel to provide adequate soil support, monitoring surface settlement along the alignments, conducting preconstruction surveys of structures along

the alignment, requiring tunnel monitoring during construction, and specifying types of tunneling machines that could further minimize the potential for surface settlement. Using these measures, the City has successfully completed the construction of numerous large sewer tunneling projects with minimal surface settlement impacts, including the North Outfall Relief Sewer (NORS), North Outfall Sewer - East Central Interceptor Sewer (NOS-ECIS), and the Northeast Interceptor Sewer (NEIS). The MTA projects were different than the sewer projects. The MTA projects included dual (two) tunnels side by side, larger diameter, shallower and used an open-shield tunneling machine. NEIS II and GBIS would be a single tunnel, would be deeper than the MTA projects, and would use an earth pressure balance machine that would control potential for surface settlement and therefore generally pose less of a potential for surface settlement than the past MTA projects. This method of limiting surface settlement has been applied successfully in the past with the NORS, NOS-ECIS, and NEIS I sewers.

The Project Alternatives are an infrastructure improvement project. By providing relief to the existing NOS and a new sewer to the area, the GBIS component would provide a benefit to the area and is critical for maintaining long-term sustainability of the local residential and business uses.

As mentioned above, similar to the existing NOS and other sewers (i.e., Valley Outfall Relief Sewer) and conveyance facilities in Valley Spring Lane, the proposed sewer needs to be located in the vicinity of the users, which includes residential, as well as industrial and commercial land uses. As such, the proposed NEIS II and GBIS alignments are appropriate and represent a reasonable range of options that meet the objectives and needs. For additional information on the staff recommended GBIS Alignment, see Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR. Comments noted.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Clayton Cook****Janice Eaton****Stan Hyman****Steven Mayer****Scott Morris****Kevin Mulvey****Dorothy Sall****Jackie Sharp****Norman Tyre****Keith Wheeler****David Zollman****Frank L. Zugelter**

CERTIFIED MAIL # CERTIFIED MAIL # CERTIFIED MAIL #
7005 1160 0002 6379 0412 * 7005 1160 0002 6379 0405 * 7005 1160 0002 6379 0399
Return Receipt Requested for each of these three (3) mailings

December 1, 2005

FLZ 12/23/05

7005 1160 0002 6379 038

FLZ 12/23/05

Councilman Thomas LaBonge ✓ Los Angeles City Council
Council District # 4 Ferraro Chambers Rm 340
City of Los Angeles Burbank City Council 200 N Main St
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Los Angeles CA 90012 Burbank CA 91502

Dear Councillors and re: Glendale/Burbank Interceptor Sewer (GBIS)
Councilman LaBonge: per DRAFT MAP DATED MAR. 15, 2005

Since 2002 there have been ongoing Integrated Resources Plan [IRP] Steering Group Workshop meetings regarding this project. Although a stakeholder, and presumably along with stakeholders who are residents within Toluca Lake, they or the Toluca Lake Homeowners' Association [TLHA] have never been informed or invited or noticed to participate in these meetings even though our community will be one of the most impacted by implementation of its present DRAFT format.

On the noted DRAFT MAP DATED MAR. 15, 2005, there are three (3) proposed sewer lines projected to go through Toluca Lake. In addition there are four (4) PROPOSED "Air Treatment Facilities" surrounding Toluca Lake. This will surely give the old saying "sweet smell of success" a new meaning for Toluca Lake residents.

02-1

We urge you to request that the sewer lines be re-routed, through areas of less impact to the residents of Toluca Lake. Routings such as along Forest Lawn Drive or along the LA River all the way to the Tillman Plant are presently suggested for review and implementation thereafter.

Cordially,

Frank L. Zugelter, pres.

PO. Box 2013, Toluca Lake, California, 91610 - Phone: 818-769-3411

Letter O2. Signatory – Toluca Lake Homeowners Association

Response to Comment O2-1

Refer to response to comment O1 for a discussion of why the existing NEIS II and GBIS alignments were chosen for analysis. As described in detail in Section 2.2.1.10 of the Draft EIR, the GBIS South Alignment would be under Forest Lawn Drive (between Zoo Drive and Barham Boulevard). Regarding a Los Angeles River alignment, see response to comment AJ31-2. In addition, Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR describes the staff recommended GBIS Alignment, which would minimize impacts to residences in Toluca Lake. Comment noted.

Letter O5. Signatory – Mono Lake Committee

Response to Comment O5-1

From: "Frances Spivy-Weber" <frances@monolake.org>
To: <IRP-EIR@san.lacity.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 8, 2005 9:11 AM
Subject: Hearing schedule for IRP???

O5-1 [I have been unable to find the schedule for when and where you will be holding public meetings on the IRP. I really appreciate being able to make comments on line, but I am also interested in face-to-face public comment opportunities.

Frances Spivy-Weber
310-316-0041
frances@monolake.org
Mono Lake Committee

The dates for the public hearings were included in the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIR. Refer to Section 1.3 of this Final EIR for a detailed discussion of the public outreach and notice conducted for the Draft EIR.

Letter O6. Signatory – Lakeside Golf Club

From: "Henry Workman" <HWorkman@SWDLAW.NET>
To: <IRP-EIR@san.lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Feb 27, 2006 4:12 PM
Subject: Integrated Resources Plan Comments

From:

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<<Draft Opposition .3.pdf>>

CC: <lance@lakesidegolfclub.com>, <tom.labonge@lacity.org>,
<jchappelle@accentbldrs.com>, "Roger Sullivan" <RSullivan@SWDLAW.NET>

Letter O6. Signatory – Lakeside Golf Club

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Response to Comment O6-1

This introductory comment is noted. The specific comment on the impacts to the Lakeside Golf Club are addressed in response to Petition 3. Additional and specific responses to the content of the comment letter are addressed in the responses to comments O6-2 through O6-16.

Response to Comment O6-2

As discussed in Section 2.2.1.10 of the Draft EIR, the GBIS alignment is presented in terms of two alignments that are referred to as the GBIS North Alignment and the GBIS South Alignment. These two GBIS alignments were selected for consideration as they accomplish the project goals of protecting the public health and safety by providing adequate wastewater conveyance capacity. Both GBIS alignments would be constructed using tunneling methods. The depths of the various sewer components are provided throughout Section 2 of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR does not state that the GBIS would range in depth from 15 feet to 180 feet. Rather, the Draft EIR (on page 2-44 in Section 2.2.1.10 states that the depth of GBIS could be up to 120 feet below the ground surface. The Draft EIR (page 2-32 in Section 2.2.1.9) further states that NEIS II could be up to 180 feet below the ground surface, and that the VSLIS could be 15 feet below the ground surface if constructed using open trench methods and up to 115 feet below the ground surface if tunneling methods are used to construct the sewer (see page 2-47 of the Draft EIR). It should be noted that GBIS would not be constructed at depths as shallow as 15 feet below the ground surface, as indicated in the comment letter. Rather, GBIS would be substantially deeper, with a minimum depth of approximately 50 feet below the ground surface. The exact depth of GBIS at particular points along either alignment has not yet been determined for several reasons: (1) the various elevations of alignments affect the depths that can be introduced at the downstream terminus of GBIS (which is the upstream end of NEIS II), and (2) various engineering design parameters are applied along the alignment. An engineering profile with exact

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February 27, 2006

Jawhar P. Shah
City of Los Angeles
Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
Wastewater Engineering Services Division
2714 Media Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Comments of Lakeside Golf Club to Integrated Resources Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Shah:

O6-1

These comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) are submitted by Sullivan Workman & Dee on behalf of the Lakeside Golf Club. Preliminarily we would like to note that the GBIS south alignment would cause unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts to Lakeside Golf Club, the Toluca Lake and the residences which adjoin the lake. In this letter we will point out some of the deficiencies that we perceive in the document.

O6-2

The draft EIR does not describe the project in specific terms or state which of the alternate routes is the preferred alternative. The draft EIR does not identify the depth of the pipeline as it passes under the Lakeside clubhouse and Toluca Lake in the south alternative. There is only a general statement that the pipeline depth will vary from 15 feet to 180 feet under ground. The draft does not discuss the third alternative route in which the line would stay beneath the Los Angeles river channel from the Barham pit to Woodbridge park. This route would be preferable to either the north alignment or the south alignment.

O6-3

The goal of CEQA is to allow the public and its decision makers to be able to make rational decisions concerning the environment based on good, hard data and information. An environmental document is an "environmental alarm bell" whose purpose it to alert the public

depths along the selected GBIS alignment will be determined during the design phase following approval of a GBIS alignment and NEIS II alignment for implementation.

Regarding the comment that the Draft EIR does not describe the project in specific terms or identifies a preferred alternative route; the Draft EIR describes and evaluated four distinct Project Alternatives at a co-equal level. Each Project Alternative includes the GBIS component, for which there are two proposed alignments. Both of the GBIS alignments are described in Section 2.2.1.10 of the Draft EIR. The impact evaluations of the Project Alternatives include a discussion of the impacts associated with the two alignments of the GBIS component.

Response to Comment O6-3

Regarding a Los Angeles River alignment, refer to response to comment AJ31-2.

Jawahar P. Shah
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Response to Comment O6-4

O6-4

and responsible officials about environmental issues. (see Laurel Heights Improvement Assn. v. Regents of University of California (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376, 392.) By failing to specifically identify a project and by failing to include hard data analyzing the impacts, the draft EIR fails to meet this goal.

The possible adverse impacts will be addressed under the appropriate heading.

O6-5

Air quality

During construction the volatile organic compounds (VOCS) that are present in the soil will vaporize when exposed. This means that PCE and TCE contaminants will be introduced to the atmosphere during construction, contributing to the health risk of the elderly, the infirm, and the young.

O6-6

After construction, sewer gas transmissions will occur. Odors are currently experienced near maintenance holes of the (NOS) existing north outfall sewer. See figure 3.4-0 for location of complaints. The air treatment facility sites may emit H2S in excess of acceptable standards. See section 3.4 -54 page 3.4 -114. There is no analysis of the potential liability for the increased odors that will not be mitigated as shown at page ES-30, AQMM6-8.

O6-7

Potential liquefaction must also be considered. The young alluvial soils beneath Lakeside Golf Club Clubhouse and Toluca Lake are in a liquefaction zone. When an earthquake occurs, ground water may intrude into the zone. If this takes place the earth can turn into quicksand leading to significant subsidence. The Toluca Lake, the homes which are in the vicinity of the lake along Valley Spring Lane, the Lakeside Golf Club clubhouse, and pool would all be affected by subsidence.

O6-8

The construction may lead to settlement and cracking of the Toluca Lake bottom liner and loss of water into the surrounding soils including the tunnel excavation. This could cause additional settlement and surface damage to the roadways and structures on either side of the tunnel right of way. Groundwater loss could accelerate settlement of roadways, clubhouse and residences next to the lake.(pg 3-32) The extent of this impact could be quite large due to the nature of the alluvial soils along Valley Spring Lane and Toluca Lake. (Table ES-1 pg 40)

The Draft EIR presents four Project Alternatives to meet the future wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles in the year 2020 and integrates the recycled water and the runoff systems. Each of the alternatives is a combination of project- and program-level components that would feasibly accomplish the wastewater, water recycling and runoff management goals and objectives of the IRP (Section 1.3 of Draft EIR). The Project Alternatives emphasize different approaches to meet the project objectives such as emphasizing wastewater treatment capacity upstream in the system versus downstream in the system. In lieu of analyzing one project in detail and project alternatives qualitatively, the IRP Draft EIR co-equally analyzed the four Project Alternatives. As described in Section 1.2.2 of the Draft EIR, because the Project Alternatives are composed of various components from the IRP Facilities Plan, each alternative in the Draft EIR was evaluated at a co-equal level. Unlike the referenced court case, which was for a project that was not adequately identified or analyzed, the IRP Draft EIR specifically identified the four Project Alternatives as the potential Project. The Draft EIR adequately analyzed (in Section 3) the hard data associated with project-level components (near-term), and it conservatively and qualitatively analyzed the more conceptual program-level components associated with each alternative. As addressed in Section 1.2.2 and Section 3.1.2, although program-level components were evaluated in the Draft EIR, subsequent environmental analysis and public review would be conducted after specific project-level information is available. Additionally, unlike the referenced court case, the Draft EIR analyzed “alternatives” in detail as they would be co-equally considered for the selection of the Recommended Alternative prior to certification of this Final EIR.

Response to Comment O6-5

Refer to response to comment AJ1-28.

Response to Comment O6-6

As discussed in the response to the City of Burbank (AJ1-6), the odor setting presented in the Draft EIR has been updated to reflect the odor complaints in the vicinity of the Valley Heart Shaft Site. As discussed in Section 3.4.3.3 of the Draft EIR (discussion of odor impacts under significance threshold AQ-3), the ATF at the Valley Heart Shaft Site could result in significant odor impacts. Although mitigation has been identified and includes locating the ATFs at least 100 feet from sensitive receptors (AQ-MM-7 described on page 3.4-137) and establishing a stack concentration limit for hydrogen sulfide that is equal to or less than 0.5 ppm, a significant residual impact is identified. Contrary to the comment, hydrogen sulfide levels are not expected to exceed the air quality standards, as shown in the footnote “b” in Table 3.4-51 on page 3.4-108. The footnote identifies that the significance threshold of 11.26 micrograms per cubic meter is less than California Ambient Air Quality Standard for hydrogen sulfide, which is 42 micrograms per cubic meter. The Draft EIR addresses and discusses potential odor impacts of the Project Alternatives, in compliance with CEQA.

Response to Comment O6-7

The potential for liquefaction was analyzed in detail in Section 3.9.3.2 (page 3.9-35) of the Draft EIR. As stated in that section, much of the GBIS alignments fall within liquefaction overlay zones; however, GBIS would be located at depths below the actual liquefaction zones. Therefore, the potential for impacts from a liquefaction hazard is very low to nonexistent and the scenario described by the commenter is not expected to occur. Furthermore, compliance with design and/or construction recommendations in the project-level geotechnical study (as described on page 3.9-51) that would be prepared as standard practice during the predesign process would ensure that potential liquefaction-related impacts are kept at acceptable levels.

Response to Comment O6-8

See response to comment O1 for a discussion on the potential settlement associated with GBIS. In addition, the GBIS South Alignment would not go under the Toluca Lake; hence, no impact is expected to the Lake. Use of an earth pressure balance machine (as described in Section 2 of the Draft EIR), would prevent substantial amounts of groundwater from entering the tunnel; therefore, no significant impacts are anticipated.

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Response to Comment O6-9

06-9 An additional cause for concern is that the proposed alignments extend through groundwater contaminated with chlorinated hydrocarbons. The sewer may act as a conduit and allow groundwater contamination to migrate to uncontaminated areas.

Land use and planning

06-10 It is anticipated that underground private property easements would be required if the south alignment is selected. The size and scope of any existing easements would not be sufficient for the new construction.

Noise and vibration

06-11 Sensitive receptors would experience increased noise levels in excess of 5dba during construction. The construction is estimated to last at least 3 years.

Recreation

06-12 The south alignment would impact the Lakeside Golf Club, Toluca Lake and the homes which are along Valley Spring Lane.

General Objections

06-13 The impacts analysis and the mitigation measures are inadequate in many areas because analysis is improperly deferred to a later date, and the only “mitigation” measures in areas where “significant” impacts are acknowledged to exist consist of future studies to determine future mitigation measures. For example:

- Page ES-33, Bio-MM-1 through 3 call for future surveys and design modifications “as determined in coordination with applicable agencies.” It is said this will mitigate potentially significant impacts to less than significant. But that cannot be determined until those surveys and modifications are planned and implemented.
- Page ES-34, Bio-MM-4 calls for a future survey to determine the presence of affected wetlands, with a redesign to occur if they are found.
- Page ES-35, Bio-MM-5 calls for a future report by a “qualified biologist” regarding impacted trees.

As described in detail in Section 3.11 of the Draft EIR, during construction the tunnel could serve as a pathway for contaminated groundwater if space is left between the tunnel pipe and surrounding soil. During the construction process, however, impermeable concrete-based grouting materials will be used to fill the void between the tunnel pipe and surrounding soil. The permeability of the grouting materials would be lower than that of the surrounding soil types, thereby reducing the possibility that the tunnel would serve as a preferential pathway for contamination migration.

Response to Comment O6-10

The City of Los Angeles makes all reasonable efforts to site infrastructure projects within public rights-of-way, and this objective is noted in the objectives and criteria for selection of the Recommended Alternative, as discussed in Section 1.5 of this Final EIR. In instances where using public right-of-way is not feasible, such as for engineering or operational reasons, infrastructure must be located beneath private property. As discussed in Section 3.12.3.2 of the Draft EIR, the GBIS alignment (either the North or South alignment) could require the acquisition of permanent underground easements from private parties. Although the potential exists for use of private property for the alignment, the overall objective is to minimize such easements. It is not clear from the comment why the size and scope of any existing easements would be insufficient for the new construction.

Response to Comment O6-11

The commenter is correct. Section 3.13.3.2 of the Draft EIR identifies the number of sensitive receptors that would experience noise levels of 5 decibels or more during construction of NEIS II and GBIS. Section 3.13.3.3 of the Draft EIR also includes numerous mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts during construction, such as NV-MM-1 through NV-MM-5, which

includes noise attenuating devices, such as mufflers, curtains, noise control plans, notification and a 24-hour hotline for questions and concerns. As discussed in Section 3.13.3.3 of the Draft EIR, with implementation of mitigation measures, construction noise levels would not exceed 5 decibels at sensitive receptors. Construction of NEIS II and GBIS is expected to occur over a period of approximately 3 years for each sewer project.

Response to Comment O6-12

As detailed in Section 3.16.3.3 of the Draft EIR, no recreational resources in the area noted would be directly affected by aboveground construction of the GBIS alignment. The specific comment on the impacts to the Lakeside Golf Club is addressed in response to Petition 3. As stated above in response to comment O6-8, the nearest proposed component, the GBIS South Alignment, would not travel under or through the Toluca Lake; hence, no impact is expected to the Lake. Additionally, as detailed in Section 3.12 (starting page 3.12-13) of the Draft EIR, although the western portion of the GBIS alignments consists of commercial, residential and recreational uses, the proposed shaft sites, diversion structures and drop structures located in the Toluca Lake area is dominated by open space/recreational, industrial and commercial uses. In fact, the nearest shaft site to the Toluca Lake area, the Barham Shaft Site is currently an open space/vacant lot. As described in response to Petition 3, a majority of the construction (as well as operation) of the proposed sewer would occur belowground from construction shaft sites. The majority of construction activities would be localized and occur at the shaft sites, while limited surface construction impacts would occur at various locations along the alignment associated with surface grouting, maintenance holes, drop structures, diversion structures and ATFs (Section 2.2.1.9 and Section 2.2.1.10 of the Draft EIR).

Response to Comment O6-13

The comment states that several mitigation measures represent deferred mitigation. Discussed below are the specific mitigations noted in the comment and a discussion of why they are not deferred mitigations. The intent of the Executive Summary of the Draft EIR is to provide an overview for the reader and as such is a synopsis of the information presented in the Draft EIR. Whereas the commenter identified the mitigations only using the abbreviated notes on mitigation measures contained in the Executive Summary of the Draft EIR, the responses below notes the location in the Draft EIR and the specific measure incorrectly cited in the comment as deferred mitigation.

BIO-MM-1: As described in Section 3.5.3.3 of the Draft EIR (page 3.5-42), this mitigation measure requires biological surveys of any proposed project site, if habitat suitable for raptor or other native bird species occurs on the site. Any active raptor or other bird nests observed will be mapped on construction plans. Additionally, a qualified biologist will determine the appropriate construction activity buffer, which is typically 300 to 500 feet, to allow construction to proceed while minimizing disturbance to the birds in the active nest. This is not deferred mitigation because it represents a specific commitment to mitigate and sets up parameters (i.e. pre-construction surveys and establishment of construction buffers to minimize impacts to nesting birds). This mitigation is proposed to ensure mitigation addresses conditions present prior to actual initiation of construction (surveys are required within 7 to 30 days prior to construction) rather than determining the minimization activities based on conditions observed during preparation of the Draft EIR.

BIO-MM-2: As described in Section 3.5.3.3 of the Draft EIR, this mitigation measure requires focused, protocol plant surveys to determine the absence or presence of special-status plants on any proposed project site. In the event a regionally important plant population is identified, mitigation would be required. Mitigation for special-status plants is determined through coordination and negotiation between appropriate resource agencies and the proposed project proponent and appropriate mitigation is developed on a case-by-case basis. Mitigation could include avoidance of the plants to the greatest extent possible (which includes total avoidance), relocation of specimens with monitoring/collection of seeds, or purchase of offsite habitat areas containing the observed special status plant species. Establishment of mitigation ratio (area of affected site versus area of mitigation site), timing of mitigation, performance standards for determining success, monitoring and reporting requirements, and remediation activities will be documented in a mitigation plan developed in coordination with the appropriate resources agency and implemented, as appropriate. This is not deferred mitigation because it represents a specific commitment to mitigate and sets up parameters (i.e. pre-construction surveys and development of a mitigation plan to implement that is specific to

site conditions and timing of project activities). This mitigation is proposed to ensure mitigation addresses conditions present prior to actual initiation of construction (species-specific protocol surveys are required) rather than determining the minimization activities based on conditions observed during preparation of the Draft EIR.

BIO-MM-3: As described in section 3.5.3.3 of the Draft EIR, this mitigation measure requires surveys to determine the potential of the program-level components, once they are changed to site-specific components, to affect biological resources (special-status plants, wildlife, habitats, wetlands, and trees protected under local ordinances and policies). In the event biological resources are present on the selected project-level component site, alternate site locations or design modifications will be implemented to avoid biological resources. If avoidance cannot be implemented, consultation with agencies having jurisdiction over the resource will occur to identify case-by-case and/or species-specific mitigation, as applicable and appropriate. As mentioned previously, each program-level component will be subject to additional environmental review once site-specific plans are developed some time in the future. It is appropriate to develop site and component-specific mitigation once the specific location is selected and potential impacts to biological resources can be identified. This is not deferred mitigation (where an essential environmental study is deferred to the future); because the exact location of the program-level component is not known at this time and potential impacts will be addressed in future environmental review once the project-level component design is developed.

BIO-MM-4: As described in Section 3.5.3.3 of the Draft EIR, this mitigation measure requires surveys for wetlands downstream of the diversion point and upstream of the effluent discharge point of the Dry Weather Runoff - Low Flow Diversions and Dry Weather Runoff - Urban Runoff Plants or Treatment Wetlands. See response to comment AJ3-45 for a detailed discussion as to why this mitigation measure is not deferred mitigation.

BIO-MM-5: As described in Section 3.5.3.3 of the Draft EIR, this mitigation measure requires review of the City of Los Angeles tree ordinances and identification and quantification of the trees that need to be removed at the Riverside East Shaft Site or program-level component locations, as applicable. Additionally, any replacement requirements lists in the City of Los Angeles tree ordinance will be implemented as they apply to protected oak trees. As mentioned previously, each program-level component will be subject to additional environmental review once site-specific plans are developed some time in the future. It is appropriate to develop site and component-specific mitigation once the specific location is selected and potential impacts to biological resources can be identified. This is not deferred mitigation because replacement or relocation would be performed in compliance with the applicable ordinance provisions. Additionally, this is not deferred mitigation (where an essential environmental study is deferred to the future); because the exact location of the program-level component is not known at this time and potential impacts will be addressed in additional environmental review once the project-level component design is developed.

WQ-MM-1: As described in Section 3.11.3.3 of the Draft EIR, this mitigation measure requires a pilot study to understand the effects of brine on downstream treatment processes and to establish operating parameters to prevent treatment process disruptions. See response to comment AJ3-48 for a detailed discussion as to why this mitigation measure is not deferred mitigation.

GEO-MM-1: As described in Section 3.9.3.3 of the Draft EIR, once a NEIS II alignment has been selected, and during the design phase of the Project, a detailed subsurface investigation will be conducted. The geotechnical investigation will recommend specific design measures that will be incorporated into the design of the alignment that would further mitigate potential impacts from the fault crossing. This mitigation measure is a commitment by the City of Los Angeles to minimize potential impacts of crossing a fault. As stated in Section 3.9.3.3 of the Draft EIR (page 3.9-52), even with the incorporation of the mitigation measure, a remote potential still exists for residual impact. This mitigation measure is not deferred mitigation because it relies on established practices and parameters.

GEO-MM-2: As described in Section 3.9.3.3 of the Draft EIR, various performance standards are noted in GEO-MM-2 that would be applied to the construction of the sewer components of the Project Alternatives to minimize potential impacts from surface settlement. These performance standards include a numerical limit to surface settlement, 0.75-inch along the tunnel alignment. GEO-MM-2 has been modified to include a goal to further limit surface settlement to 0.50-inch (refer to Sections 2.1 and 2.4.9 of this Final EIR). This measure is a commitment by the City to minimize potential impacts and would be specified in the contract documents, The Draft EIR determines that there is a potentially significant residual impact (page 3.9-54), and therefore this measure is not deferred mitigation because it provides specific prescriptive standards relevant to settlement.

HAZ-MM-1: As described in Section 3.10.3.3 of the Draft EIR, if the Recommended Alternative certified includes treatment wetlands (either Alternative 2 or Alternative 4), this mitigation measure would minimize potential vector-related impacts by implementing subsurface wetlands or by developing a vector control plan in coordination with the applicable vector control agency. Vector control plans would also be approved as being effective by the controlling agency. Because this measure would avoid potential mosquito breeding grounds or prepare and implement approved measures to control vectors as coordinated and developed with the applicable vector control agency, significant impacts are not anticipated. This measure represents a commitment by the City to ensure that vector issues are addressed in possible treatment wetlands projects relying on established parameters and guidelines (i.e., vector control agency established practices and parameters). In addition, as detailed in Section 1.2.2 and Section 3.1.2 of the Draft EIR, because the program-level components, such as treatment wetlands, do not have specific locations or design details identified; the program-level components will be subject to additional future environmental review.

NV-MM-3: As described in Section 3.13.3.3 of the Draft EIR, prior to construction, the contractor would be required to submit a noise control plan to the City for approval and represents one or many noise and vibration mitigation measures. The plan specified under NV-MM-3 represents a more detailed means of incorporating the measures specified in NV-MM1 (requirement for attenuation devices on construction equipment) and NV-MM-2 (use of noise curtains at construction sites with line of sight to sensitive receptors), and will present the performance standards in the form of a noise control plan that will identify the physical manifestations of NV-MM-1 and NV-MM-2. Therefore, NV-MM-3 is not deferred mitigation.

NV-MM-6: As described in Section 3.13.3.3 of the Draft EIR, this mitigation measure establishes a performance standard, or trigger, that must be met if program-level components, such as dry and wet weather URPs or ATFs are located nearby sensitive receptors. As with HAZ-MM-1, this measure represents a commitment by the City to ensure that potential noise issues are addressed for program-level components. As detailed in Section 1.2.2 and Section 3.1.2 of the Draft EIR, because the program-level components, such as dry and wet weather URPS and ATFs (for VSLIS), do not have specific locations or design details identified, the program-level components will be subject to additional future environmental review. In addition, NV-MM-6 establishes a performance standard that would limit increases in noise levels at nearby sensitive receptors to 3 dBA. Committing to performance standards is not deferred mitigation.

NV-MM-7: As described in Section 3.13.3.3 of the Draft EIR, this mitigation measure applies to the sewer alignments that would be constructed using tunneling methods, establishes performance standards for vibration that would apply to day and night construction, and also identifies possible measures that can be implemented to achieve the performance standards. Committing to performance standards is not deferred mitigation.

- Page ES-36, WQ-MM-1 calls for completion of a “pilot study” on the increased brine that the project will generate.
- Page ES-40, GEO-MM-1 calls for a rerouting of NEIS II in the event of a catastrophic break. This is the equivalent of trying to close the barn door after the cows have escaped.
- Page ES-41, GEO-MM-2 calls for “monitoring” of settlement that may occur during tunneling and which could impact surrounding areas. While some measures are laid out to prevent settlement (though these measures do not reduce the impact which will remain “Potentially Significant”), no measures are laid out to handle the settlement if it occurs.
- Page ES-42, Haz-MM-1 calls for future “alternative wetlands designs . . . and/or a vector control plan” to control mosquitoes.
- Page ES-47, NV-MM-3 calls for preparation in the future of a “noise control plan.”
- Page ES-48, NV-MM-6 calls for a future “acoustical analysis to determine the noise effects” of runoff, and calls for future, unspecified “noise reduction measures” such as sound walls.
- Page ES-49, NV-MM-7 calls for future preparation and implementation of a “control plan” for “potentially significant” vibration impacts.

06-13
06-14

In addition to the above deficiencies, the alternatives analysis is inadequate. Compare the existing capacities on page ES-4, Par. ES1.4.1, with the proposed capacities under all of the alternatives at page ES-7, paragraph ES1.5. This shows that the projected increase in capacity ranges from a low of 20 mgd for Alternatives 3 and 4, to 31 mgd for Alternative 2, and to 50 mgd for Alternative 1. The total existing capacity is 559 mgd. Therefore, the projected increase in capacity under the four alternatives ranges from 3.5% to 8.9%. Yet there is no analysis whatsoever of any alternatives that would involve conservation measures that would eliminate the need for that increase in capacity. The answer the DEIR gives is to build a project, not save wastewater by decreasing demand for it.

Response to Comment O6-14

As a point of clarification, Alternatives 1 through 4 would add 50 mgd, 31 mgd, 36 mgd, and 36 mgd, respectively. These proposed Hyperion Service Area capacities represent an increase over the current capacity (529 mgd) that ranges from 5.9 percent for Alternative 2 to 9.4 percent for Alternative 1. The existing capacity and the proposed capacities and their percentage increase were derived from the sections of the Draft EIR referenced in the comment letter. Section 2.3.2 of the Draft EIR discusses alternatives that were considered but withdrawn, and subsection 2.3.2.2 discusses additional water conservation programs that LADWP could implement. As discussed in the Draft EIR, LADWP will continue to implement water conservation measures; however, given future population growth over the next 20 years, continued implementation of water conservation measures, as a stand-alone program, is not expected to offset future wastewater generation. As a consequence, implementing only water conservation measures is not likely to meet future water resource needs in the City, and there will likely be a need to manage future wastewater flows through facility improvements despite continued implementation of water conservation measures. The Project Alternatives developed as part of the facilities plan process and evaluated in the Draft EIR have been developed to meet future wastewater needs and are based on wastewater flow projections that in turn are based on SCAG population projections, per capita water usage, and other factors. Additionally, each Project Alternative includes increased recycled water usage (described in Section 2.2.2.2 of the Draft EIR), and water conservation measures such as smart irrigation (see Section 2.2.2.3 of the Draft EIR). As such, the Alternative analyzed at a co-equal level in the EIR represent a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the health and safety goals, wastewater system needs, and water resource goals, as described in Section 1.3 (Project Objectives) of the Draft EIR.

Jawahar P. Shah
February 27, 2006
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Letter O6. Signatory – Lakeside Golf Club

Page 6

Response to Comment O6-15

As discussed in the responses to your comments (O6-1 through O6-14), the Draft EIR is adequate. Regarding your comment on the Los Angeles River, see response to comment AJ31-2.

O6-14

Page ES-18 at paragraph ES1.5.5 says that the No Project Alternative is not as good because it would require individual projects, rather than an integrated project, in order to meet “future demands.” However, there is no analysis of measures that might reduce those future demands. Obviously, a reduction in projected future demand by ten percent would more than take care of the problem under the DEIR’s own figures. This omission is especially important because the DEIR concedes that, if no project is built, the Hyperion facility alone would meet the future demand because it “currently operates below treatment capacity.” Page ES-31, discussion of No Project at top. So even without conservation measures, there would be no capacity issue.

O6-15

For all of the foregoing reasons, we submit that the draft environmental impact report is inadequate. We ask that it be rejected and that your department prepare a revised report which would explore the third alternative, i.e. a line beneath the Los Angeles River channel from the Barham pit to Woodbridge park.

Very truly yours,

Roger M. Sullivan
SULLIVAN, WORKMAN & DEE, LLP

RMS/mpb

Letter 07. Signatory – Homeowners of Encino

From: "Gerald A. Silver" <gsilver4@sbcglobal.net>
To: <irp-eir@san.lacity.org>
Date: Sun, Jan 8, 2006 5:12 PM
Subject: Responses to Draft EIR

HOMEOWNERS OF ENCINO
GERALD A. SILVER, PRESIDENT
P. O. BOX 260205
ENCINO, CA 91426-0205

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WASTEWATER ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION

INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN (IRP)

RESPONSE TO

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR)

CASE NO. State Clearinghouse No. 2004071091

Responsible person

Adel Hagekhalil, Division Manager

Contact: Jawahar P. Shan

January 4, 2006

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR)

(CEQA, SEC. 21000 et. seq. and GUIDELINES SEC. 15087)

RESPONSE to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for a project known as:

INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN (IRP) DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Project Location: The proposed project will be located throughout the City of Los Angeles and in outlying areas. Major IRP facilities would be located in Playa del Rey, the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin, northeast Los Angeles, and in the Cities of Glendale, Burbank, and El Segundo.

The project applicant is:

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WASTEWATER ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION

The proposed project affects transportation, earth, air, water quality, plant life, population, energy, utilities, land use, and other environmental elements in Encino, (and surrounding area) This document contains our response to the scope and content of the draft environmental information which is germane to your environmental evaluation of this project.

I. HOMEOWNERS OF ENCINO, INC.

This Response is filed by the Homeowners of Encino, a Californian non-profit corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of California. Homeowners of Encino is a public benefit association organized for the purpose of promoting social welfare. This corporation seeks to protect the residential character of its neighborhoods and to enhance the quality of life for its members and the community. Many of its members reside within the neighborhood of the proposed project, and will be heavily impacted by it.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) is an integrated wastewater facilities plan that describes the existing wastewater, recycled water, and runoff systems in the City, identifies system inadequacies based on the needs projected for the year 2020, and provides recommended alternatives to address the future needs of the systems. The IRP would improve and upgrade the City's wastewater and recycled water systems, and runoff management programs through the year 2020.

The draft EIR for the IRP contains four integrated alternatives (wastewater treatment, wastewater conveyance, urban runoff management, and potential water-recycling components) that are listed below:

IRP Alternative 1: Hyperion Treatment Plant expansion with a moderate potential for water resources projects (up to 42,000 acre-feet per year).

IRP Alternative 2: Tillman and LAG water reclamation plant expansions and process upgrades with a high potential for water resources projects (up to 53,200 acre-feet per year).

IRP Alternative 3-. Tillman expansion/process upgrades with moderate potential for water resources projects (up to 43,400 acre-feet per year).

Letter O7. Signatory – Homeowners of Encino

Page 3

Response to Comment O7-1

IRP Alternative 4: Tillman expansion/process upgrades with a high potential for water resources projects (up to 56,100 acre-feet-per year).

III. IMPACTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY ASSESSED

- 07-1 We believe that the proposed project will have significant impacts on the environment that have not been fully addressed in the draft EIR. One of the most troubling aspects of the major sewage system expansion proposal for the Sepulveda Basin is the proposed underground 60 million gallon sewage storage tank. This will result in the closure of the cricket field, and Air Treatment Facilities that could result in permanent losses of recreational areas.
- 07-2 The most damaging impacts will be in the Sepulveda Basin, and the San Fernando Valley, if Alternative 2, 3 or 4 is selected. Therefore Alternative 1 is the most desirable, since it will involve the least disruption to the sensitive Sepulveda Basin.
- In particular Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 will have a significant impact on air quality, natural resources, noise, geology, energy, aesthetic, biological resources, coastal resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology, water quality, population and housing, public services, vibration, utilities, transportation and traffic.
- 07-3 The Lead Agency must take into consideration the effects of this and other projects which, will have individually limited, but cumulatively considerable impact on the environment, especially the Sepulveda Basin. With the effects of past, current and probably future projects mandatory findings of significance should be found. (Guidelines Sec. 15065)
- Throughout your draft EIR you have relied upon "mitigations" that are required by law or official regulations and these are unacceptable. Such measures cannot serve as mitigations to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Nor can mitigations be acceptable that are considered to be standard operating practices by developers who could be found negligent, if such operating procedures were not met.
- 07-4 In preparing your final EIR, you must recognize that any mitigations that you propose must go beyond those mandated by law or existing policy and practice. Compliance with the law and standard operating procedures establishes the baseline. CEQA mitigations are discretionary actions taken beyond the baseline. You must include verifiable mitigations in the final EIR, not merely a recital of legal requirements or standard operating practices. We ask that you revise your findings and address the following environmental concerns that we believe have been overlooked or inadequately dealt with in your draft EIR:
- IV. IMPACTS ON EARTH
- 07-5 This project will result in disruptions, displacements, compaction and overcovering of soil, particularly in the Sepulveda Basin. The final EIR should specify what grading will be done, and provide a time line indicating the starting and ending dates of all grading and construction activities.

The comment did not specifically identify which significant impacts on the environment that were not fully addressed in the Draft EIR. Regarding the proposed Tillman storage tank, the impacts on recreation were identified in Section 3.16.2.3 of the Draft EIR (stating on page 3.16-36). The Draft EIR identified that construction of the wastewater storage at Tillman would result in the temporary elimination of the existing cricket field, which would be considered significant. Mitigation measure REC-MM-1 was included in the Draft EIR to mitigate the impacts associated with the relocation of the cricket field during construction of the wastewater storage at Tillman. Operation of the wastewater storage tank at Tillman would be belowground, thereby not precluding aboveground recreation (i.e., the cricket field). No ATFs are proposed in the Sepulveda Basin or at Tillman. However, as addressed in Section 3.16.2.3 of the Draft EIR, for several of the ATFs proposed for recreational areas a significant impact would remain in a permanent loss of recreational use even with implementation of REC-MM-3. City of Los Angeles staff and decisionmakers will consider the findings of the Draft EIR when approving and certifying the Recommended Alternative (including staff recommended NEIS II and GBIS alignments and shaft sites). If after considering this Final EIR, the decisionmakers find that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, a Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be required.

Response to Comment O7-2

All the Alternatives would have impacts on the environment and all would potentially involve program-level components in the San Fernando Valley. For those resource areas that would potentially have significant impacts remaining after mitigation, a majority of the issue areas (i.e., air quality, operational odors, cultural, fault crossing and settlement, recreation, and parking) are associated with the construction and operation of the either NEIS II and GBIS alignments, which are common to all the Alternatives. In fact, regarding operational odors, Alternative 1 was found to have a potentially significant impact remaining where Alternatives 2

through 4 was less than significant after mitigation. Refer to Table ES-1 in the Executive Summary of the Draft EIR for the summary of environmental effects. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O7-3

Discussions of cumulative impacts are contained in Section 3 of the Draft EIR at the end of the impacts discussion under each resource area for each alternative. In summary, with implementation of mitigation, the Draft EIR found that there would be potential cumulative air quality, biological (operation), water quality (operation), and noise (construction). Regarding the reference to cumulative impacts in the Sepulveda Basin, the Draft EIR (Section 3.16.2.3 on page 3.16-36) discusses and identifies a potentially significant recreational impact related to the temporary loss of the cricket field during construction of storage at Tillman; however, this project-level impact would be mitigated with measure REC-MM-1 (described on page 3.16-39 of the Draft EIR), which would relocate the cricket field to a new location in the Sepulveda Basin prior to construction of the storage component. As discussed in Section 3.16.2.4 (Cumulative Impacts), none of the Related Project or Plans are expected to affect the same recreational areas that the Project Alternatives would affect, and no cumulative impacts are expected. This would also apply to the Sepulveda Basin, as a recreational area. As indicated in response to comment O7-1 above, City of Los Angeles staff and decisionmakers will consider the findings of the Draft EIR when approving and certifying the Recommended Alternative (including staff recommended NEIS II and GBIS alignments and shaft sites). If after considering this Final EIR, the decisionmakers find that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, a Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be required. Mandatory Findings of Significance (CEQA Guidelines Section 15065) requires that a lead agency to prepare an EIR if it finds that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. This finding was made in the Notice of Preparation and the Draft EIR was subsequently prepared for the Project Alternatives. As noted in Section 1.2.2 and Section 3.1.2 of the Draft EIR, the program-level components will be subject to additional future environmental review and will be subject to Mandatory Findings of Significance.

Response to Comment O7-4

The Draft EIR identified various mitigation measures to reduce anticipated significant impacts. With the exception of two mitigation measures, AQ-MM-8 and BIO-MM-5, all of the mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR are not otherwise required by law, regulation, or rule. Mitigation measure AQ-MM-8 (described on page 3.4-137 of the Draft EIR) would set the stack concentration limit at ATFs for hydrogen sulfide at 0.5 ppm or other level specified by the SCAQMD. Although the ATFs will require permits to operate from the SCAQMD and are thus required by rule or regulation, no particular allowable stack limit for hydrogen sulfide is established. Rather, the stack limit will be determined by SCAQMD in the future. This measure is considered acceptable and valid under CEQA because it could mitigate potential odor impacts associated with ATFs. BIO-MM-5 requires that a qualified biologist survey and identify the types of trees that would be removed at the Riverside East Shaft Site or the sites of applicable program-level components, and if any oak trees would require removal, that compliance with the City's oak tree ordinance would occur. Mitigation measure BIO-MM-5 (described on page 3.5-47 of the Draft EIR) is considered acceptable under CEQA, as this measure would mitigate potentially significant impacts to protected trees. As a note, these two mitigation measures are not standard operating practices by developers; they are measures that are expressly required by the City in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (see Appendix G of this Final EIR).

Regarding the comment that mitigations must go beyond those mandated by law, the majority of mitigation measures specified in the Draft EIR are indeed beyond those required by law, regulation, rule, or ordinance, as described in the paragraph above. Mitigation measures described in the Draft EIR are not merely measures that recite legally requirements measures; rather, many of them are measures that have been developed to mitigate specific and unique impacts identified in the Draft EIR. Measure REC-MM-1 described on page 3.16-39 of the Draft EIR is one such measure, and mitigates impacts to the Cricket Field in the Sepulveda Basin from the construction of storage at Tillman. In addition, some of the mitigation measures specified in the Draft EIR are standard practices that are typically implemented during project construction, such as TRA-MM-1 (which requires the preparation of traffic control plans and subsequent LADOT approval; see page 3.17-79 of the Draft EIR). However, because there is no guarantee that those standard practices would be implemented, they have been specified as mitigation in the Draft EIR to ensure their implementation in a manner that is verifiable and traceable.

(Appendix G of this Final EIR contains the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program). This is consistent Section 15126.4(d)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines, which requires that mitigation measures be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally binding instruments. Regarding the request to revise the findings in the Draft EIR, refer to the responses below.

Response to Comment O7-5

Section 2.2.1.3 through Section 2.2.1.6 of the Draft EIR describes in detail the assumptions on the area of disturbance for the proposed Tillman components. The only project-level component that would potentially result in impacts to the Sepulveda Basin would be Tillman Wastewater Storage. As shown in Figure 2-11 (page 2-49) and Figure 2-12 (page 2-53) of the Draft EIR, program-level components that could potentially be located Sepulveda Basin include recycled water lines, a low-flow diversion, an URP, and/or treatment wetlands. Section 3.4.3.2 of the Draft EIR, addresses the potential impacts associated with the construction of the Tillman Wastewater Storage and program-level components, in particular the potential impacts associated with excavation, grading and construction. Section 3.18.3.2 of the Draft EIR also describes in detail the amount of earth expected to be disrupted to construct the proposed Tillman Wastewater Storage and briefly addresses the generation of soils associated with the program-level components. The Draft EIR did not find any significant impacts associated with soils (i.e., excavation, grading, and compaction) for the Tillman Wastewater Storage component. As noted in Section 1.2.2 and Section 3.1.2 of the Draft EIR, the program-level components will be subject to additional future environmental review. As noted in the Executive Summary (Section ES1.1), and detailed in Section 1.4 of the Draft EIR, approximately every 10 years, the City of Los Angeles prepares a wastewater facilities plan to evaluate the current wastewater treatment system and identify ways to meet future demand. The four Proposed Alternatives in the Draft EIR were developed to meet the future wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles in the year 2020, while integrating recycled water and runoff systems. Although no construction time line was provided, Section 2.4 of the Draft EIR detailed the proposed method of implementation. Some or all of the components of the Recommended Alternative would be implemented starting in 2006 and proceeding through 2020 in a phased approach. Section 2.4 goes on to describe the various drivers, or triggers, that would determine what is needed and when to begin construction.

As described in Section 3.17 of the Draft EIR, the City of Los Angeles (Department of Transportation) reviews each haul route permit for specific application of its general guidelines. For all construction sites, mitigation measure TRA-MM-1 (preparation of a traffic management plan, including designation of haul routes) is identified in the Draft EIR to reduce construction impacts to traffic to a level that is less than significant.

The Draft EIR adequately presents and analyzes the potential for the four Project Alternatives to result in impacts to or cause geologic and seismic hazards, settlement, liquefaction, and flooding. Specifically, Section 3.9 of the Draft EIR describes in detail the potential for impacts to geology and soils, including seismic hazards (and related issues, such as subsidence, liquefaction, and tsunamis), grading, erosion/sedimentation and slope stability. In addition, figures were included in Section 3.9 of the Draft EIR (i.e., Figures 3.9-1, 3.9-2, and 3.9-3 to show the areas of the City of Los Angeles where potentially active faults, seismic hazard zones, and erosion (associated with hillsides) are issues. Additionally, Section 3.10 (in particular Figures 3.10-2 and 3.10-3) address potential hazardous zones (i.e., methane and contaminated areas), while Section 3.11 of the Draft EIR addresses flood hazards from a 100-year flood. Each of the associated Draft EIR sections (3.9, 3.10 and 3.11) detail the existing potential impacts associated with geology and soils, hazards, and hydrology issues and potential impacts. General setting for issues commented on, such as seismic (faults) and liquefaction, was provided in Section 3.9.2.1 of the Draft EIR, with detailed information related to project-level and program-level components was in Section 3.9.2.2 of the Draft EIR, including those components that could occur within the Sepulveda Basin. In summary, the analysis in the Draft EIR determined that even with mitigation, the potential for breakage, although deemed remote, of the pipeline for either NEIS II alignment, remained potentially significant (Section 3.9.3.3). In addition, settlement associated with tunneling of the large sewers (NEIS II, GBIS and VSLIS) was found to be potentially significant after mitigation (Section 3.9.3.3). This Final EIR (Section 2) includes further restriction to settlement; however, the potential for settlement impacts would remain. All other geologic/seismic and soil related hazards, as well as flood hazards, were determined to be less than significant. A summary of all the potential impacts, significance determination, mitigation measures, and impacts after mitigation are provided in Table ES-1 of the Executive Summary (Draft EIR and in this Final EIR). Additional details of the analysis and findings are provided in Sections 3.9, 3.10 and 3.11 of the Draft EIR.

Response to Comment O7-6

Haul routes should be described, and mitigation proposed for dealing with the traffic congestion created by the hauling of large amounts of soil on city streets to dumpsites. The information presented in the final EIR should be sufficient to allow for a clear understanding of the geologic hazards and their impacts. The final EIR should present a comprehensive summary of known geologic and seismic hazards near the site. These should be clearly identified to ensure that the proposed construction plans willfully evaluate and mitigate the problems.

The final EIR should include maps that show areas of unsuitable fill soils, potentially unstable slopes, areas of differential settlement, areas of expansive soils, and the potential zone of inundation from flooding, due to a 100 year flood.

The final EIR should present a summary of seismic information on ground acceleration and the duration of strong shaking that could be expected from large earthquakes on nearby faults. Impacts of seismic shaking on existing buildings in the area, and on stability of slopes and fills, should be addressed, including liquification in the Sepulveda Basin..

07-5

V. AIR IMPACTS

07-6

The Draft EIR did not fully consider the air impacts. Construction of the Alternatives will exceed the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) threshold of significance for all criteria pollutants, and operation would exceed the threshold of significance for NOx and VOCs. There will also be significant odor impacts, especially for the area surrounding the Sepulveda Basin.

A project of this size will have a deteriorating effect on air quality in the region, which is located in a locality which does not meet Federal and State air quality standards. The construction of the project will generate Carbon Monoxide, Nitrous Oxide, Ozone and particulate matter, making it more difficult to attain the required air standards in the basin. Please identify in the final EIR the specific increases of air pollutants generated by this project, and the cumulative impacts on the air quality in the region.

Your assessment should show how this project, when taken together with all other proposed projects in the area will impact air quality. It should show threshold levels of significance for each type of air emission. The City of Los Angeles and the EPA have entered into an Consent Decree regarding growth within the Hyperion Service Area. They have agreed that growth within the area will not result in air emission increases, nor impede the region's progress toward National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) attainment.

Your final EIR should show that all impacts have been reduced to insignificance, in order to comply with the City of Los Angeles and EPA agreement. Anything short of this is a breach of the terms of the Federal consent decree, and actionable, with the possibility of substantial fines being imposed against the City.

Also address the air impacts at both the local level, and within the region. Explain how these impacts will be fully mitigated. Specifically, quantify all

The air quality impact discussion of the Draft EIR (Section 3.4.3) identifies the anticipated levels of criteria pollutants expected to be emitted during both construction and operation, including cumulative impacts. Odor impacts are also discussed in Section 3.4.3. Section 3.4.3.2 contains estimate of the criteria pollutant emissions for project-level components, and Section 3.4.3.3 provides estimate of construction and operational emissions for each alternative, compares them to the SCAQMDs significance thresholds, and discusses cumulative air quality impacts.

The Draft EIR identifies significant impacts for all criteria pollutants (after mitigation) from construction and operation (see page 3.4-133). The air quality analysis identifies the criteria pollutants that would exceed the SCAQMD construction and operational emissions thresholds. The thresholds of significance are shown in Tables 3.4-8 and 3.4-9. The impact discussions under AQ-1 and AQ-2 for each alternative in Section 3.4.3.3 of the Draft EIR contain tables that provide estimates of the anticipated construction and operational emissions for each criteria pollutant, compares those emission estimates to the SCAQMDs significance thresholds, and identifies if a significant impact (threshold exceedance) would occur. As an example, Table 3.4-64 provides the emissions estimates for construction of Alternative 4 and Table 3.4-68 provides the emissions estimates for operation of Alternative 4. Cumulative air quality impacts are discussed in Section 3.4.3.4 of the Draft EIR (page 3.4-163), and significant cumulative impacts are identified. The cumulative impacts analysis is based on construction and operation of the Project Alternatives in conjunction with the Related Plans and Projects that are described in Section 3.1.3 of the Draft EIR. In addition, the commenter correctly points out that the Alternatives would result in significant VOC and NOx emissions after mitigation from operation (see page 3.4-135 of the Draft EIR).

Regarding odor impacts, page 3.4-135 of the Draft EIR identifies a potential odor impact at Tillman (located in the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin) related to the storage of wastewater before mitigation. Mitigation measure AQ-MM-5, described on page 3.4-136 of the Draft EIR, would implement a multiphased odor program at Tillman (and LAG) to identify specific treatment plant processes that are the source of odor complaints, evaluate whether the odor sources are candidates for operational or facilities-based odor control measures, and implement the identified measures. Following mitigation, odor impacts from the Project Alternative components at Tillman and LAG are expected to be reduced to a less than significant level (see the impact discussions for each Alternative under impact AQ-3 in Section 3.4.3.3 of the Draft EIR).

The referenced Consent Decree was an agreement between the City of Los Angeles and the EPA that was entered into to address the ocean disposal of sludge from Hyperion and require full secondary treatment at Hyperion. In the past, population growth has been linked to the provision of wastewater treatment capacity. Past wastewater facilities plan efforts in the City used projections of future population in the Hyperion Service Area as the basis for treatment system expansion. The IRP Facilities Plan adopted the same approach to recommending expansion of the treatment system, and as described in Section 1.4.1 of the Draft EIR, the City used recent SCAG projections of population in the HSA in developing waster flow projects and determining the amount of treatment system expansion for the Proposed Alternatives. In addition, as discussed in Section 3.4.3.3 (see the discussion for each Alternative under impact AQ-5, Consistency with AQMP for additional details), the same SCAG population projections that were used in the IRP Facilities Plan is the same projections used in the State Implementation Plan, which outlines measures to bring the air basin in to compliance with the NAAQS. As such, the Proposed Alternatives would not result in significant growth-inducing impacts (as described in Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR) and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP (as described in Section 3.4.3.3 of the Draft EIR).

Although construction and operation of the Proposed Alternatives would result significant air quality impacts after mitigation related to exceedances of project-level criteria pollutant significance thresholds, these exceedances cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, as described in Section 3.4.3 of the Draft EIR. These air emissions are quantified and incorporated into the conformity analysis presented in Section 3.4.3 of the Draft EIR under the AQ-5 discussions. The conformity analysis in the Draft EIR shows that maximum annual emissions from the Alternatives would exceed the general conformity de minimus levels for CO, VOC, NO_x, and PM₁₀, but concludes that the Alternatives would be in conformance with the SIP because the wastewater components of the Alternatives are sized to only meet the needs of the future population projected by SCAG. As a consequence, the Alternatives would not be in violation of the Consent Decree.

Regarding the comment about local and regional air quality impacts, the impacts discussion under AQ-1 in Section 3.4.3 of the Draft EIR identify the possibility that localized impacts to air quality (criteria pollutants) could occur related to temporary pollutant concentrations that exceed the CAAQS or the NAAQS. Regarding localized impacts from project operation, the air quality analysis in Section 3.4 of the Draft EIR indicates that the IRP components and alternatives would generate additional peak hour trips. However, the number of peak hour trips would not be large enough to cause the level of service and volume-to-capacity ratio to worsen at roadway intersections. As such, localized mobile CO hot spots are not anticipated. The impact discussions under AQ-3 and AQ-4 in Section 3.4.3 of the Draft EIR regarding potential odor impacts and health risk impacts, respectively, also represent a localize impacts analyses, as the potential impacts would occur in the vicinity of facilities. Regarding the comment about regional emissions, the impact discussion under AQ-1 (construction emissions), AQ-2 (operational emissions), and AQ-5 (AQMP consistency) are regional in nature because Project emissions would be generated at various proposed facilities throughout the City. Appendix B of the Draft EIR, Air Quality Calculations, contains documentation of the assumptions, calculations, and data that supports the various impact analyses contained in Section 3.4.3 of the Draft EIR. As discussed in Section 3.4.3 of the Draft EIR, mitigation measures have been provided to reduce Project emissions; however, not all of the potential air quality impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Section 3.4.2.1 of the Draft EIR described various criteria pollutants (carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead), and potential health effects that could be experienced from exposure to these pollutants. During project construction, diesel exhaust and fugitive dust would generate emissions that exceed the SCAQMD thresholds for all criteria pollutants. As a result, sensitive individuals, such as the aged and infirm, located adjacent to large construction activities could be exposed to significant localized levels of criteria pollutants on a temporary basis. The potential for significant localized impacts to sensitive receptors is discussed and disclosed in the impact discussions under Impact AQ-1 for each build alternatives in Section 3.4.3.3 of the Draft EIR). The evaluation of air quality impacts in the Draft EIR focuses on potential impacts air quality impacts related to generally accepted significance criteria. It should be noted that although direct impacts to flora and fauna from emissions is not commonly evaluated under CEQA documents, significant secondary impacts flora and fauna in the Sepulveda Basin are not likely to occur because the Alternatives are not expected to obstruct compliance with the SIP and because flora and fauna within the Basin does not appear to have been significantly affected despite construction of other substantial projects in the Basin, such as the Burbank Boulevard Trunk Line. As discussed in Section 3.4.3 of the Draft EIR under each of the impact topics (AQ-1 through AQ-5), no significant secondary impacts to air quality are anticipated.

Response to Comment O7-7

The IRP focuses on the planning and upgrading of the wastewater treatment system. The City of Los Angeles also recognizes the increasing need to integrate wastewater planning with other water resources planning efforts. Therefore, the IRP Draft EIR focuses on wastewater project-level components with program-level components that include wastewater, water reuse, and conservation projects. The proposed project is not a traditional development project that would negatively impact the water supply. Rather, the Project Alternatives would increase the use of recycled water, which would offset the need to import water from outside the region. In addition, as detailed in Section 2.2.1 of the Draft EIR, a minimal number of additional employees would be required to operate IRP components; therefore, water consumption would be minimal and insignificant. Although construction would require use of more water than operation, the impact would be short term and not significant. As detailed in Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR, the Project Alternatives are not expected to be growth-inducing because the Project would not result in the construction of new housing (directly or indirectly by removing existing obstacles to growth), but is a plan to respond to SCAGs projected growth. It should be noted that the wastewater flow projections developed as part of the IRP are based on SCAG projection; hence, the facilities have been sized and proposed to respond specifically to future projected population for the service area. In addition, the implementation of the facilities improvements would be based on trigger flows that would use demand or regulatory drivers to trigger the timing of improvements (Sections 2.4.1 and 4.2.4.2 of the Draft EIR). The LADWP Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) addresses future water supply issues.

Additionally, Section 3.11 of the Draft EIR analyzed the potential for IRP components to affect watershed areas and groundwater basins because of increased recycled water usage and/or water runoff management. As detailed in Section 3.11.3.3 of the Draft EIR, the only residual impact to water quality is associated with the

related vehicular air emissions, and include the factors, formulas and computations used to arrive at these impacts, and their mitigations. Provide an appendix with all necessary and supporting documentation, including the paper trail that will allow concerned citizens, or decision makers to trace your steps, and your conclusions with regard to air impacts.

Please explain in the final EIR what effects diesel fumes, gasoline powered equipment fumes and construction odors will have upon those with respiratory problems, or the aged living nearby. Also discuss the impact on local flora and fauna, giving specific effects upon plant and animal life, as a result of the additional air degradation that may be caused by the project. This is especially important in the Sepulveda Basin area.

The EPA has stressed the importance of secondary air impact analysis. The final EIR should assess the secondary air impacts that will result from this project and please provide adequate mitigations for these air impacts.

VI. WATER IMPACTS

The Los Angeles basin is located in a permanent drought area. The direct water impacts from this project have not been fully addressed. Identify source of water, how it will be used in the project, and how much water will be used to support additional growth in the region. Fully explain the quantitative impacts on the local and regional water supply, as a result of this project, and excessive growth is will support. Estimate water consumption both during and after construction. Provide a detailed list of mitigations to reduce the consumption of water to insignificance.

The City of Los Angeles has enacted ordinances which mandate many water saving and conservation measures. These items must be considered baseline, and do not qualify as mitigation measures, since they are already the law. Your final EIR should impose more extensive measures to deal with the water consumption issue. Please also provide mitigations for dealing with secondary water impacts. The growth sustained by a project of this size will consume large amounts of fresh water, which are in short supply in the region. Also please detail the amount of water necessary for control of dust as well as the cumulative amount of water needed by this project during the construction phase.

If reclaimed sewage water is to be used for dust control, the effects of misting and air borne transfer of viruses should be analyzed and reported. Include the factors, formulas and computations used to arrive at these impacts, and their mitigations. Provide an appendix with all necessary and supporting documentation, including the paper trail that will allow concerned citizens, or decision makers to trace your steps, and your conclusions with regard to water impacts.

VII. IMPACT UPON ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE

A project of this size will have a detrimental effect upon the flora and fauna in the project area, especially in the Sepulveda Basin. The area is a natural habitat for birds and other animals. It will not be possible to construct the project, without a serious impact on the local biota. Provide a detailed assessment of impacts on both plant and animal life as a result of the

07-6

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possibility, although unlikely, that a break in the NEIS II, GBIS, and/or VSLIS due to an earthquake could potentially result in a groundwater quality impact.

The comment incorrectly states that the Draft EIR considers existing water conservation ordinances as mitigation measures. The IRP integrates wastewater planning and water planning activities, and is consistent with LADWP's UWMP. Although the IRP components were based on an extensive Facilities Plan process, the components carried through the Draft EIR does not limit or hinder the City from further pursuing other alternatives or methods of water conservation or management. In fact, LADWP continues to move forward with its aggressive water conservation program, including exploration of new conservation opportunities consistent with the goals of the IRP and the UWMP. As discussed above, and detailed in Section 2 of the Draft EIR, a minimal number of additional employees would be required to operate IRP components; therefore, water consumption would be minimal and insignificant. Although construction would require use of more water than operation, the impact would be short term and not significant.

Recycled water could be used for dust control as it is a Department of Health Services (DHS) approved use of secondary disinfected and tertiary treated recycled water and not expected to result in adverse health effects.

Response to Comment O7-8

As detailed in Section 3.5.3.2, no state- or federally listed endangered, threatened, rare, candidate, sensitive species, or special-status species were found within the footprint of the Tillman project-level components (expansion, process upgrades and wastewater storage). Generally, the program-level components would be under urbanized conditions; however, as the exact location of program-level components are not final, the potential impacts to biological resources could occur. As detailed in Section 3.5.3.3 of the Draft EIR, if program-level components are located in non-urban, undeveloped, or open space areas, a significant impact on biological resources could occur unless mitigation measure BIO-MM-3 (site survey by a qualified biologist) is incorporated. After mitigation, the impact on biological resources is expected to be less than significant.

Response to Comment O7-9

07-8 project. Also provide detailed mitigations to reduce these potential impacts to insignificance.

VIII. NOISE IMPACTS

A substantial amount of noise will be generated by the proposed project during construction. The movement of heavy vehicles, trucks, compressors and construction equipment will create severe noise problems. Show how it will be possible to construct this project, including removal of many cubic yards of soil without creating severe noise impacts. Noise must be reduced to insignificance.

07-9 The final EIR should explain the effects of noise levels on local residents and construction workers, during construction, and the impact on the emotional and physiological well being of people living nearby. Please explain in detail the effects of specific pieces of construction equipment, the noise levels, dBA, frequency and duration of sound that people will be exposed to. Also explain the impact of sustained noise upon the aged or those who are ill and may reside near the construction site. The final EIR should provide mitigation measures that will reduce the noise created by this project to insignificance.

IX. LIGHT AND GLARE IMPACTS

07-10 Light and glare was not adequately assessed in the draft EIR. Residents living near the construction sites will be subjected to light and glare. The applicant must be required to illuminate the premises without casting light and glare on nearby buildings. Any buildings located adjacent to the projects will be directly impacted. The light and glare that will spill onto nearby buildings must be mitigated in the final EIR. The construction project will result in altered shade and shadow conditions which should also be mitigated to insignificance in the final EIR.

X. CHANGES IN POPULATION

07-11 Changes in population will occur if this project is approved. It will alter the distribution, density and growth rate in the region. Providing more water, sewage capacity and recycled water will encourage more population growth. The IRP will cause greater population density in a regional ready without adequate infrastructure.

07-12 In your final EIR, please show how the project adheres to the job/housing balance. Provide a detailed assessment of the growth and job impacts. What kinds and types of jobs will be created, as a result of this project, and what new project will be built. Analyze the effects on housing that is available to accommodate any increase in direct and indirect employment. Provide a detailed list of mitigation measures to deal with any job/housing imbalance created by the project.

XI. CULTURAL IMPACTS

07-13 For NEIS II and GBIS pipelines, excavations within 0.25 mile of the LA River have a high potential to affect archeological resources and/or human remains. The NEIS II and GBIS pipeline tunneling will also significantly affect paleontological resources. The Sepulveda Basin was once home to a native

Section 3.13 of the Draft EIR details the potential noise impact of the proposed project components and alternatives. In particular, the section addresses the noise sensitive receptors adjacent or within close proximity to the components, which includes schools, residences, parks, libraries, hospital, and other care facilities, and the potential impacts of construction and operation on these sensitive receptors. Table 3.13-11 of the Draft EIR is a list of the estimated noise level from major construction activities (i.e., type of equipment and workday utilization rate used in the analysis).

Section 3.13.3.3 of the Draft EIR also includes numerous mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts during construction, such as NV-MM-1 through NV-MM-5, which includes noise attenuating devices, such as mufflers, curtains, noise control plans, notification and a 24-hour hotline for questions and concerns. With implementation of these measures, potential construction impacts associated with the Project Alternatives would be less than significant.

Response to Comment O7-10

Section 3.2.4.1 of the Draft EIR adequately assessed potential for light/glare impacts of the components, while Section 3.2.4.4 addressed the potential impact of implementing each alternative using significance threshold AES-4 (routine intrusion of lighting on to adjacent light-sensitive uses). To reduce lighting impacts during construction, Section 3.2.4.4 of the Draft EIR includes mitigation measure AES-MM-7, which specifies measures (i.e., shielding and directional lighting) that will be implemented at construction sites in residential areas. To reduce impacts from the operation of components, mitigation measure AES-MM-8 is included in the Draft EIR (also Section 3.2.4.4) that includes similar measures included in AES-MM-7 (i.e., shielding and directional lighting) to limit operational lighting impacts in residential areas. Implementation of mitigation measures (AES-MM-7 and AES-MM-8) would serve to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

Response to Comment O7-11

As mentioned under response to comment O7-7, and detailed in Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR, the Project Alternatives are not expected to be directly or indirectly growth-inducing. In addition, the implementation of the facilities improvements would be based on trigger flows that would use demand or regulatory drivers to trigger the timing of improvements (Sections 2.4.1 and 4.2.4.2 of the Draft EIR); therefore, treatment plant capacity expansion would only occur if future flow conditions require expansion. Treatment capacity does not determine or directly influence the balance of jobs and housing. Rather, jobs/housing balances are more appropriately influenced through land use policies and planning tools such as the General Plan, Community Plans, and other land use planning documents. Regarding job/housing balance, the IRP components and alternatives are not a development, but an infrastructure project. As detailed in Section 2.2.1 of the Draft EIR, a minimal number of additional employees would be required to operate IRP components (particularly associated with project-level components at Hyperion, Tillman and LAG). Impacts associated with increased public services (police, fire and schools) are detailed in Section 3.15.3.3. In summary, the minimal increase in staff would not generate additional demand or need for public services, and no new facilities or projects associated with those services would be required.

Response to Comment O7-12

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2, the EIR must disclosure any significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if a project is implemented. As addressed in detail in Section 3.7 of the Draft EIR, the excavation and tunneling associated with the NEIS II and GBIS project components have a high potential to affect archaeological resources and human remains within 0.25 miles of the Los Angeles River. In addition, the impact on paleontological resources would also be potentially significant for the NEIS II and GBIS components. Even with mitigation, the impact to these resources is potentially significant. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and Section 15092, after considering this Final EIR in conjunction with the findings that one or more significant environmental effects of the project cannot be avoided, the decision-making body can approve the project due to overriding concerns (as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15093). The Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations will include the potential for significant impacts on cultural and paleontological resources. It should be noted that neither the NEIS II nor the GBIS alignments would be located in the Sepulveda Basin, and therefore would not affect cultural resources within the Basin.

Response to Comment O7-13

The commenter asks several general questions about how the traffic impact analysis was conducted and how the temporary adverse impacts identified will be mitigated.

The methodology used to identify potential project-related traffic impacts is described in Section 3.17.3.2 of the Draft EIR on pages 3.17-23 and 3.17-24. As stated, the project addresses the wastewater, recycled water and stormwater-related facilities and needs of the City of Los Angeles for the year 2020. The traffic impact analysis of the proposed NEIS II and GBIS alignments was conducted for 2012 and 2014 conditions, respectively, corresponding to the time frame when they would be under construction.

Section 3.17.3.2 describes the location and extent of the temporary adverse traffic impacts that could result from construction of the proposed project and, as noted in the Draft EIR, the analysis represents a conservative, worst-case assessment of the impacts likely to be experienced on the street system in the immediate vicinity of each site where in-street construction activities potentially could result in temporary lane closures.

The proposed mitigation measures are described in Section 3.17.3.3 of the Draft EIR (pages 3.17-79 and 3.17-80). These measures are applicable to each of the in-street and off-street construction sites, as appropriate, that would be used to construct the infrastructure facilities proposed as part of the project. Mitigation includes preparation of site-specific construction traffic management and control plans which provides ways to minimize impacts to parking, bikeways and pedestrian access (TRA-MM-1 through TRA-MM-4). Advance notice to any affected properties and public service providers is also included (TRA-MM-5 through TRA-MM-7).

07-12 California population and the project will have a high potential to affect archeological resources and/or human remains in the Basin.

XIII. TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

Transportation and traffic circulation will be negatively impacted by the proposed project. There are a number of E and F level intersections in the vicinity of the project. The construction of this project and removal of large amount of soil over city streets will impede traffic and circulation and make gridlock worse. The final EIR should explain how the E and F level, gridlocked intersections in the area will be mitigated to insignificance.

Because of the project's magnitude and the substantial construction required, the proposed project will generate significant traffic congestion problems. Traffic congestion resulting from the expansion of freeways and access roads, lane closures, detours, slow moving construction vehicles and equipment, project personnel commutes, etc. significantly increase traffic and mobile-source air emissions. Please provide detailed maps in the final EIR which will show how the project will mitigate traffic in the area, including the number of lanes of traffic that will be lost due to the movement of heavy equipment to and from the site during construction.

07-13 Since the project has corridor level transportation impacts, what are the long-term impacts? Estimate the number of trips generated, and provide documentation on the assumptions. How will the project affect public transportation in the region, and locally? What will the impact be on nearby freeways. This project will have a mutual impact on other projects in the area. Explain in the final EIR the interactive impacts on the existing circulation system, on ATSAC, and the secondary highways. Explain thoroughly how you arrive at trip generation rates, trip distributions, time of day analysis, effects on A.M. and P.M. traffic conditions, etc.

The final EIR should deal with the phasing issue comprehensively. What will be the incremental impacts on traffic, and if phased, how will the infrastructure be phased in so that all mitigations are in place to prevent increases in traffic or a degradation of circulation? Include the factors, formulas and computations used to arrive at these impacts, and their mitigations. Provide an appendix with all necessary and supporting documentation, including the paper trail that will allow concerned citizens, or decision makers to trace your steps, and your conclusions with regard to traffic impacts.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICE IMPACTS

07-14 The final EIR should fully address impact on public services. Police and fire services are inadequate to meet the present community needs. This project will generate additional demands that the City systems cannot handle. The final EIR should show how the applicant intends to mitigate the drain on local public services. It should present a detailed explanation of the degraded response times to police, fire and paramedic services. It should present specific mitigations and funding mechanism that show how the applicant will offset the deteriorated public service response capability.

07-15 In this post-911 era, protection of public facilities is very important. Your final EIR should address the issue of public facilities protection, terrorist

With mitigation, the temporary adverse traffic impacts of the project would be less than significant. The construction traffic management plans and, where appropriate, construction traffic control plans, will designate haul routes to be used, identify access to each construction site and any necessary lane closures, detours, turning movement restrictions and traffic control devices.

No long-term traffic impacts were identified in the Draft EIR, as no permanent lane closures would occur and only minimal trips would be generated by the proposed facilities once they are operational.

Response to Comment O7-14

The Project Alternatives are an infrastructure project that would involve minimal additional employees to operate. In addition, as stated in Section 3.15.3.1 of the Draft EIR, because the components and Project Alternatives would not result in development of residential, commercial or industrial land uses, nor would they increase growth (as detailed in Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR and described in response to comment O7-7). As described in detail in Section 3.15, no additional demands on provisions of, and access to, police or fire protection or public school services are anticipated as a result of operation of the project. As it relates to construction, as described in Section 3.15.3.3, advance notice would be given to LAPD and LAFD regarding the location and duration of any traffic delays and applicable detours to minimize potential disruption to police and fire protection services caused by limited access to and/or closure of lanes and streets within the public rights-of way. In addition, emergency ingress and egress for police and fire protection facilities would be maintained during construction. As noted in Section 3.1.1, construction will follow the uniform practices established by the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (for example, *Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction and Work Area Traffic Control Handbook*). Therefore, less than significant impacts to police and fire services are anticipated and no additional mitigation is required.

Response to Comment O7-15

Section 3.15 of the Draft EIR specifically addresses security at Hyperion, Tillman and LAG, where potential security issues are the greatest, as it relates to the potential for proposed improvements to create the need for additional public services. The City implements security measures at City facilities in accordance with City policies and procedures as part of its operating procedures and will continue to address security issues during construction and operation of the Recommended Alternative. For key facilities, security is provided through fencing (or barriers) and controlled facility access. The City has over 6,500 miles of sewers and over 2,000 miles of storm drains, which provides some level of conveyance redundancy. Active security measures are not provided for underground pipelines; however, the exact location of such pipelines are generally unknown and this, as well as the underground nature of these facilities likely lessen their value as potential terrorist targets. Because of the unannounced and apparently random nature of terrorist attacks, no facility is immune from such attacks, and in the event that a terrorist attack occurs to City infrastructure, response, and repairs would be made by the City. In addition, and appropriate action would be taken by federal and state agencies in response to such attacks.

Response to Comment O7-16

- 07-15 attacks on pipelines, reservoirs, conveyance facilities and the like. Backup system and system redundancy must be fully explored in the draft EIR.
- XIV. IMPACT ON ENERGY AND UTILITIES
- Utilities will be impacted by the proposed project. The lead agency is, or should be, aware of the limits on solid waste disposal. Large amount of soil will have to be trucked to a dumpsite as the project proceeds, making landfill disposal problems worse.
- 07-16 The final EIR should quantify the impact that this project will have on the capacity and exhaustion of local landfills, both during and after construction. Specifically how many cubic yards of soil will be trucked to landfills, and how much solid waste will be exported, and to which sites? Show haul routes and the time of day when city streets will be used for this purpose. How much electrical energy will be needed to operate the project, once it is in operation. Will backup energy sources be used?
- Show the volume of sewage produced by the project, and how it will impact the Hyperion, Los Angeles-Glendale and Tillman plants. Show which sewage lines will need to be upsized, which streets will be affected, and for how long a period.
- The final EIR should analyze the availability of hydraulic capacity for the anticipated flow in the local and interceptor sewers serving the proposed project area. The quantity and quality of wastewater to be discharged to the sewer system should be more thoroughly analyzed.
- 07-17 The City of Los Angeles has enacted ordinances that are designed to reduce the volume of water introduced into the sewage system. These measures must be considered baseline, and do not qualify as mitigation measures, since they are already the law. Your final EIR should impose more extensive measures to deal with the sewage flow issue. Include the factors, formulas and computations used to arrive at these impacts, and their mitigations. Provide an appendix with all necessary and supporting documentation, including the paper trail that will allow concerned citizens, or decision makers to trace your steps, and your conclusions with regard to energy, sewage and utility impacts.
- XV. RECREATIONAL IMPACTS
- Construction of Tillman wet weather storage facilities in the Sepulveda Basin will result in the temporary closure of the cricket field. Air Treatment Facilities for the NEIS II pipeline would result in permanent losses of recreational areas. Construction associated with the NEIS II and GBIS pipelines will significantly affect, or diminish some recreational facilities. The construction of a 60 million-gallon tank in the Sepulveda Basin will severely impact recreational facilities in the Basin. Show how all of this will be mitigated to insignificance in your final EIR.
- XVI. GEOLOGICAL IMPACTS
- 07-19 There is a potential for breakage of the NEIS II pipeline due to surface rupture along the Hollywood-Raymond fault. The NEIS II, GBIS, and VSLIS

Section 3.18 of the Draft EIR details the potential for the construction and operation of project- and program-level components to generate solid waste. Table 3.18-3 of the Draft EIR provides a summary of the components and the estimated construction debris and soil that would be generated, as well as solid waste generation during operation. Specifically, Section 3.18.3.3 of the Draft EIR analyzes the impacts of potential generation (quantified) of solid waste associated with the construction and operation of each Project Alternative. Alternatives 2 through 4 would have similar inert construction debris generated (286,859 yd³), while Alternative 1 would have a slightly higher amount (286,860 yd³). Construction debris is estimated to represent approximately 1 percent of the combined remaining volume of the Bradley West and Sunshine Canyon Landfills and could be accommodated at either facility; therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated. Of all the alternatives, Alternative 3 would have the least amount of excavated soils. However, as detailed in Section 3.18.3.3 of the Draft EIR, excavated soil of an acceptable quality will first be used for other projects, agricultural operations, and imported soil to cover daily landfilling. Any soil delivered to the landfills in excess of daily landfill cover capacity is generally accepted and stockpiled for future use or as needed to cap closed landfills. Operation of the Project Alternatives includes solid waste generation associated with increased staffing at the Hyperion, Tillman and LAG. The estimated increase in staff is minimal (i.e., maximum of 13 new employees associated with Alternative 2, with an estimated solid waste generation of 21.1 tons per year).

Regarding designation of haul routes, because the Recommended Alternative or staff recommended NEIS II and GBIS alignments have not been approved by the decisionmakers, and a contractor has not been selected, specific haul routes have not yet been identified. As described in Section 3.17 of the Draft EIR, the City of Los Angeles (Department of Transportation) reviews each haul route permit for specific application of its general guidelines. For all

construction sites, mitigation measure TRA-MM-1 (preparation of a traffic management plan, including designation of haul routes) was identified in the Draft EIR to reduce construction impacts to traffic to less than significant.

Section 3.18.3.2 and Section 3.18.3.3 of the Draft EIR detail the estimated electrical energy needs of the components and alternatives. In summary, Alternative 1 would result in the least demand in the amount of electricity (188.0 million kWh per year by 2020) and Alternative 2 would result in the most demand in the amount of electricity (290.3 million kWh per year by 2020). Backup energy sources are not anticipated, except as necessary and associated with proposed aboveground infrastructure requiring electrical energy (i.e., Hyperion, Tillman, LAG, ATFs, URPs, etc.).

Response to Comment O7-17

The proposed project is an infrastructure project; not a development project. As detailed in Section 1 and Section 2 of the Draft EIR, the IRP is a project whose intent is to propose infrastructure to meet future wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles to the year 2020, while integrating recycled water and the runoff systems. The Project Alternatives were based on the modeling performed for the IRP Facilities Plan, which identified wastewater system inadequacies based on the wastewater needs projected for the year 2020 (Section 1.4 of the Draft EIR). Therefore, adequate volume and hydrology of the entire wastewater system was taken into account when identifying the project-level components of the Project Alternatives. The Draft EIR appropriately details and analyzes the potential for the construction and operation of the Project Alternatives (including the components proposed to meet the projected wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles) to have an impact on the environment. The commenter's note that the "quality" of wastewater being discharged to the sewer system should be more thoroughly analyzed is not relevant because quality is controlled by City ordinances, permit requirements and County programs that are dependent on the land use (i.e. Los Angeles County Sanitation District's industrial waste pretreatment program). In addition, the quality of the wastewater is regulated by discharge standards and requirements (surface water quality standards and discharge permit requirements are detailed in Section 3.11, starting on page 3.11-11 of the Draft EIR).

With the exception of BIO-MM- 5 (page 3.5-47 of the Draft EIR), which relates to the oak tree ordinance and not the volume of wastewater, no mitigation measures in the Draft EIR are based on City ordinances. As all four of the Project Alternatives would meet the projected wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles, thereby addressing potential sewer flow issues, no mitigation is required beyond those identified in the Draft EIR (see Table ES-1 of this Final EIR for a summary of all potential environmental effects). As noted in Section 1.4 of the Draft EIR, Volume 4 of the IRP Facilities Plan details the development, evaluation and identification of the all four of the Project Alternatives. The methodology for assessing utilities and service system impacts was based on the comparison of component-generated demand with existing and anticipated resources (page 3.18-9 of the Draft EIR).

Response to Comment O7-18

As described in response to comment O7-1 above, the Draft EIR identified that construction of the wastewater storage at Tillman would result in the temporary elimination of the existing cricket field, which would be considered significant. Mitigation measure REC-MM-1 (temporary relocation of the cricket field) was included to fully mitigate the potential impacts to recreation associated with the relocation of the cricket field during construction of the wastewater storage at Tillman. Operation of the wastewater storage tank at Tillman would be belowground, thereby not precluding aboveground recreation (i.e., the cricket field). As addressed in Section 3.16.2.3 of the Draft EIR, for several of the ATFs proposed for recreational areas (for both NEIS II and GBIS alignments) a significant impact would remain and a permanent loss of recreational use would occur even with implementation of mitigation measures REC-MM-2 (locate construction within recreational facilities in a manner to minimize impacts to recreation) and REC-MM-3 (coordinate placement of ATFs in recreational areas to minimize impacts to recreation). If after considering this Final EIR, the decisionmakers find that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, a Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be required.

Response to Comment O7-19

As described in detail in Section 3.9, Geology and Soils, the City of Los Angeles is located in Southern California, which is a seismically active area. The NEIS II alignments would both cross the Hollywood-Raymond fault, and the Draft EIR discusses the potential for the fault crossing to result in significant impacts in the event of a catastrophic earthquake that ruptures the sewer. The Draft EIR did not identify a significant potential for breakage for GBIS or VSLIS as the alignments would not cross known active faults. As detailed in GEO-MM-1 in Section 3.9.3.3 of the Draft EIR, mitigative design and/or construction measures have been identified to minimize the potential for pipe breakage along NEIS II in the event of movement on the Hollywood-Raymond fault, which include using two linings and shorter pipe sections to spread the offset or displacement over a multiple number of pipe sections, using welded steel lining and cement grout to enhance the structural capacity of the pipe and increase ductility, using a vault reach across the fault to allow for controlled pipeline deformation along the crossing, and using a larger tunnel and lining system across the fault zone to allow for controlled deformation. The Draft EIR concludes that even with the incorporation of all current design standards and mitigation measure GEO-MM-1, the potential still exists for a break in the NEIS II sewer where the pipeline crosses the Hollywood-Raymond fault due to the uncontrollable and unpredictable nature of earthquakes. Although remote, the Draft EIR identified the potential for a sewer rupture as a significant and unavoidable impact for the NEIS II alignments. Regarding the potential for settlement, Section 3.9 of the Draft EIR identified the potential for surface settlement during sewer construction (NEIS II, GBIS, and VSLIS) by tunneling as a potentially significant impact. As detailed in GEO-MM-2 in Section 3.9.3.3 of the Draft EIR, mitigation to control settlement includes limiting potential surface settlement during tunneling (this surface settlement limit has been revised in this Final EIR to add a goal of 0.50-inch to further limit surface settlement along the tunnel alignment). GEO-MM-2 also describes potential measures to meet the settlement limit, including the use of compaction grouting to fill voids, grouting in advance of the tunnel as geotechnical conditions require, monitoring settlement along the alignment, and specifying types of tunneling machines that can decrease the potential for surface settlement. The Draft EIR concludes that even with the implementation of mitigation measure GEO-MM-2, the potential still exists for surface settlement in excess of the settlement limit due to the sometimes unpredictable nature of subsurface soil conditions. As addressed in response to O7-12, above, after considering this Final EIR in conjunction with the findings that one or more significant environmental effects of the project cannot be avoided, the decision-making body can approve the project due to overriding concerns (as described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15093). The Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations will include the potential for significant impacts associated with the potential for pipe rupture during a seismic event.

Response to Comment O7-20

07-19 pipelines could cause ground settlement. How will this be mitigated to insignificance? There is also the possibility that NEIS II, GBIS, and possibly VSLIS pipelines could suffer a break resulting from an earthquake. How will this be mitigated?

XVII. AESTHETIC IMPACTS

This project will result in aesthetically offensive sites to public view. Some residents living near the sites presently, have an open view of the skyline. Their view will be blocked by the structures that will be built. Mitigation should be proposed for this problem. The project will be out of scale in relation to the other buildings nearby. Explain how this project will impact the ambiance and habitability of the communities. What impact will this project have on the business establishments, access to businesses and the present viewscape? What impacts will the project have on the marketability of homes nearby?

XVIII. GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

The final EIR should discuss properly the growth inducing impacts of the project and the environmental effects, and must be adequate under CEQA, Pub. Res. Code, Sec. 21000 et seq. Please include a detailed forecast of growth for each phase of the project. What will be the cumulative impacts of growth in the region? How is this related to the Growth Management Plan forecast, at the expected date of project or phase completion? In Laurel Heights Improvement Assoc. of San Francisco, Inc. v. Regents of the University of California (88 Daily Journal D.A.R.15037), the California Supreme Courts laid down clear guidelines and requirements for the preparation of an environmental document.

07-21 Specifically the Supreme Court stated that "a final EIR must include an analysis of the environmental effects of future expansion or other actions if: (1) it is a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the initial project; and (2) the future expansion or action will be significant in that it will likely change the scope or nature of the initial project or its environmental effects." Please be sure the final EIR properly addresses and mitigates growth inducing impacts which will have individually limited, but cumulatively considerable impact. A final EIR must be prepared which gives thoughtful discussion to dealing with short-term versus long term effects.

XIX. NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

07-22 The importance of alternatives in the EIR process is clearly established in law. CEQA Sec. 21081 requires a finding of infeasibility for each environmentally superior project alternative in the EIR prior to approval of any project which will result insignificant adverse environmental effects. It will be essential that the final EIR make a full assessment of the impacts of alternatives, including a thorough discussion of a No Project alternative. (Citizens of Goleta Valley, 89 Daily Journal D.A.R. 11920) The No Project alternative is especially important since the project is located in the center of a polluted ecosystem with degraded air, water and earth. This alternative should consider not constructing the project, or greatly minimizing it and thus reducing the demands on the infrastructure.

The lead agency is required to make a finding, supported by substantial

Sections 3.2.4.1 and 3.2.4.4 of the Draft EIR discusses the potential for visual impacts to recognized and valued views, which include the potential for view blockages during construction (from tall pieces of construction equipment); the potential for view blockages from proposed facilities at Hyperion, Tillman, and LAG; and the potential for view blockages from recycled water tanks and urban runoff plants. In addition, the Draft EIR discusses the potential for the Project Alternatives to introduce elements that substantially contrast with existing features, which includes the scale of facilities. The Draft EIR and modifications described in this Final EIR identify to potential to introduce potentially contrasting elements during construction, from the placement of ATFs in recreational areas, and potentially from the placement of pump stations, storage tanks, and URPs. Section 3.2.4.4 of the Draft EIR also identifies several mitigation measures (AES-MM-1, AES-MM-2, AES-MM-3, AES-MM-4, AES-MM-5, and AES-MM-6) to minimize construction related view impacts and to reduce potentially significant impacts from operation of the alternatives to a less than significant level. AES-MM-1 requires the screening of construction shaft sites in recreational or residential areas to minimize potential aesthetic incompatibilities with surrounding uses. AES-MM-2 requires that ATFs proposed for recreational areas are located in a manner that least affects recreational uses. AES-MM-3 requires screening (architectural treatment and landscaping) for permanent above ground structures such as storage tanks and ATFs. AES-MM-4 requires design and siting modification in a manner that minimizes or avoids key view blockages, if feasible. AES-MM-5 requires the placement of pump stations and storage tanks underground, if feasible, and selection of appropriate color and landscaping. AES-MM-6 requires the design of URPs to minimize the contrast of the facilities with surrounding areas. These mitigation would reduce the impact of construction activities and permanent aboveground structures (i.e., storage tanks, ATFs, URPs, etc) in areas where there are recognized and values views and where the potential for incompatibility with surrounding areas are a concern. The mitigation

measures regarding the site placement of ATFs in a manner that least affects recreational areas and that requires screening of facilities would also minimize concerns about effects to hospitality and ambience. Additional mitigation measures specific to the Valley Heart Shaft Site (i.e., relocation of shaft site/ATF further from recreational users) have been added to aesthetics and recreation to further reduce potential for impacts (see Section 2 of this Final EIR and response to comment AJ1-4).

Regarding the questions about impacts and access to businesses, the components would be sited in the public right-of-way, would be located underground, or would be constructed from select off-street sites. With the exception of the acquisition of two surface parcels that are currently used by businesses (auto repair and parking), as described in Section 3.14.3.2 of the Draft EIR, none of the IRP components would prevent access to businesses. As noted in the Draft EIR, relocation assistance, as applicable, would be provided. Regarding the questions about the marketability of homes close to facilities, the Project Alternatives are not expected to significantly adversely affect marketability. Rather, the provision of infrastructure is a prerequisite to residential, commercial, and industrial development, and generally facilitates the use and marketability of property. As the intent of CEQA (and therefore the Draft EIR) is to address the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project on the physical environment, the focus of the analysis is on physical changes (see Section 15131 of CEQA Guidelines). Your comments are noted.

Response to Comment O7-21

Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR discusses the potential growth inducing impacts of the Project Alternatives at full implementation of the IRP (assumed to be in 2020). This section includes discussions of the types of growth (land use and population), describes existing obstacles to growth, and evaluates the potential for the Project Alternatives to result in growth either directly through the construction of new housing; or indirectly related to capital spending, removal of obstacles to growth, and by indirectly providing water to City residents by offsetting the use of potable water with increased use of recycled water. The Section concludes that the Project Alternatives would not directly or indirectly result in growth that is not already planned for because the Alternatives would not provide housing, because the wastewater capacity expansions are based on projected wastewater levels that are in turn based on SCAG population projections, and because increasing recycled water would not result in excess water supplies but would rather allow the City to purchase less water from the Metropolitan Water District. The use of SCAG population projections in the development of future wastewater projections has been used by the City in past facilities plans and ensures that the sizing of wastewater treatment facilities does not result in conditions that could conflict with growth management policies development by the City and/or SCAG. SCAGs growth management policies, formerly expressed in the Growth Management Plan, are now incorporated into the Growth Management Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

The issue in the Laurel Heights Improvement Association of San Francisco, Inc. versus the Regents of the University of California case was that the University prepared an environmental document evaluating only one phase of the project when it was reasonable that a second phase would occur. This situation is not applicable to the IRP, either from a project standpoint or a growth inducing standpoint, because the Project Alternatives address the anticipated and projected future needs of the wastewater system, integrates future recycled water and urban runoff management needs, and assumes full implementation of the selected Alternative. The potential for the Project Alternatives to result in growth beyond projected growth is fully discussed in Section 4 of the Draft EIR. The evaluation is considered a cumulative evaluation because it addresses the needs of the entire wastewater system, including contract agencies.

The short-term versus long-term effects are described in Section 4.3 of the Draft EIR, which identifies long term benefits of the Project Alternatives related to the protection of public health and safety, the provision of adequate wastewater conveyance and treatment, and protection of the environment (improved water quality and increased sustainability). Section 4.3 of the Draft EIR also identifies short-term effects related to construction of the IRP.

Response to Comment O7-22

Section 2 of the Draft EIR contains a complete description of the Project Alternatives, including the No Project Alternative. The impacts of these alternatives are evaluated at a co-equal level throughout Section 3 of the Draft EIR. All of the IRP build alternatives are designed to safely and effectively manage future wastewater anticipated to be generated in the Hyperion Service Area. Because the existing wastewater system is inadequate to manage future projected flow, the City is proposing concrete measures to protect the environment through the implementation of the selected Project Alternative. Although the City of Los Angeles is located in an area that faces challenges in terms of the quality of the air, water, and earth, the Project Alternatives would help address such quality issues by adequately and safely managing future wastewater generated in the service area, by improving the quality of urban runoff in the City, and by increasing the use of recycled water. Contrary to the assertions in the comment that not selecting the Project Alternative or greatly minimizing it would reduce demands on infrastructure, the opposite is a more likely scenario. By not selecting a Project Alternative, adequate infrastructure would not be provided in an integrated manner to address future wastewater and water resources needs, which is likely to result in a future situation where increased demand relative to system capacity could compromise the protection of public health and safety, given future growth projected by SCAG.

As discussed in Section 3 of the Draft EIR, the Project Alternatives would result in significant unavoidable environmental impacts under various resource areas. In compliance with Section 21081 of CEQA, the City will make findings with respect to each significant impact for the selected Alternative (Alternative 4 is the Recommended Alternative) regarding changes to the project or mitigation to avoid or lessen the significant impact, regarding the responsibility for implementing the changes or mitigation, regarding considerations that may make mitigation measures or alternatives infeasible, and that overriding benefits of the Project outweigh the significant impacts. Concrete reasons or justifications would be provided, and the findings will be supported by substantial evidence in the record and this is consistent with the referenced court case.

Response to Comment O7-23

Although the Project Alternatives have similar environmental impacts, Alternative 1 is identified as the Environmentally Superior Alternative in Section 4.5 of the Draft EIR, as required by CEQA. However, the other alternatives emphasize different aspects and objectives of integrated wastewater management, including higher levels of recycled water use and different methods of managing runoff. Following close of the public review period, City staff determined that Alternative 4 is the Recommended Alternative based on relative ability to meet Project Objectives, and Alternative 4 is recommended for approval (see Section 1.5 of this Final EIR for further details). The City is not making any determination regarding an environmentally preferable alternative, as indicated in the comment; rather, the City has identified the Environmentally Superior Alternative as required by Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines, and staff have identified a Recommended Alternative based on how well the alternative meets the Project objectives. City Council will balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the Alternatives against the potential unavoidable impacts in their decision regarding the alternative to approve (consistent with the referenced San Francisco Ecology case). City Council may decide to select an Alternative other than the Environmentally Superior Alternative or the Recommended Alternative. Regardless of the selected alternative, a Statement of Overriding Considerations would be adopted because all of the Alternatives would result in unavoidable significant environmental effects. In compliance with Section 21081 of CEQA, the City will make findings with respect to each significant impact for the selected Alternative regarding changes to the project or mitigation to avoid or lessen the significant impact, regarding the responsibility for implementing the changes or mitigation, regarding considerations that may make mitigation measures or alternatives infeasible, and that overriding benefits of the Project outweigh the significant impacts. Concrete reasons or justifications would be provided, and the findings will be supported by substantial evidence in the record.

evidence that the "no project" alternative is infeasible. You should be aware of this requirement in the preparation of the final EIR. Pub. Res. Code Seqs. 21002 and 21002.1(b) affirmatively mandate that public agencies take concrete actions to protect the environment" whenever it is feasible to do so." This substantive duty is enforced through the findings requirements of Seq. 21081 and Guidelines Sec.15091. These sections require a public agency to make detailed findings regarding the feasibility of all environmentally superior alternatives or additional mitigation measures available prior to approving any project which may cause significant impacts on the environment. See Village Laguna of Laguna Beach, Inc. v. Board of Supervisors (1982) 134 Cal.App.3d 1022, 1034-1035, 185 Cal.Rptr. 41.

Where the project, as approved, will result in significant environmental impacts, the agency must make the finding, pursuant to Seq. 21081(c) [Guidelines Sec. 15091(a)(3)] that each environmentally superior alternative to the project proposed in the EIR but rejected by the agency is "infeasible" for specific economic, social, technical or other reasons. Village Laguna, 134 Cal.App.3d 1022, 1034. The findings must also expressly identify the "specific economic, social or other considerations" relied upon by the agency in determining that the alternative is infeasible. Id. at 1034-1036.

Each finding must also be supported by substantial evidence in the record. Sec. 21081.5; Guidelines Sec. 15091(b). An agency's failure to make the required findings for any major project alternative invalidates any subsequent project approval. Village Laguna, 134 Cal.App.3d at 1034-1035; San Bernardino Valley Audubon Soc. v. County of San Bernardino, 155 Cal.App.3d. 738, 752-753; Resource Defense Fund v. LAFCO (1987) 87 Daily Journal D.A.R. 2105, 2108.

XX. SELECTION OF LEAST DESTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE THAT

IS FEASIBLE FOR THE APPLICANT

Section 21002 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) forbids agencies from approving projects with significant adverse impacts when feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures can substantially measure such impacts. (*Citizens for Quality Growth v. City of Mount Shasta*, 3rd Dist. 1988, 198 Cal.App.3d 433.) In order to approve the proposed project, the lead agency must make findings on each significant impact identified in the draft EIR. The project can only be approved if economic, social, or other conditions make unfeasible mitigation measures identified in the final EIR. (Guidelines, Section 15091.) The State Guidelines, Section 15364, defines "feasible" to mean "capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social and technological factors."

The Applicant cannot make a showing that Alternative 1 is not the environmentally preferred alternative. The lead agency is therefore required under law to approve the environmentally least destructive Alternative 1, since it satisfies the feasibility standard of the CEQA requirements.

In selecting Alternative 1, the lead agency is also supporting "the view that environmental values are to be assigned greater weight than the needs of economic growth ... The act thus requires decision-makers to assign greater

Response to Comment O7-24

The Draft EIR was prepared in accordance with Section 21002.1, 21003, 21061, 21082.1, 21082.2, 21083.2, 21091, and 21092 of the CEQA Statutes and Article 7 of the CEQA Guidelines. This Final EIR has also been prepared in accordance with Section 15089 of the CEQA Guidelines and the approval, certification, and findings of the City Council (decisionmakers) will also be in accordance to all applicable CEQA Statutes and Guidelines. In addition, as set forth in Section 15003(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, and noted by the commenter, the decisionmakers will consider protection to the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutory language (*Friends of Mammoth v. Board of Supervisors*, 8 Cal. 3d 247 – it should be noted that this court decision involves activities in no way similar to the proposed project, but that this “policy,” and others under Section 15003, are applicable as policies to be implicit in CEQA). Therefore, the Draft EIR, as well as this Final EIR, are consistent and fully compliant with the provisions of CEQA (Statutes and Guidelines) and the legislative intent of CEQA have been met within the scope of the statutory language, including Section 21001 of CEQA Statutes.

As described in detail in Section 2.3.8 of the Draft EIR, under the No Project Alternative, integrated improvements to the wastewater treatment and collection system, recycled water system, and runoff system would not occur. However, the No Project Alternative would not preclude individual wastewater, recycled water, or runoff projects to occur as regulatory requirements and/or future demands require. If after considering this Final EIR, the decisionmakers find that the benefits of the project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, a Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be required. The comment is noted and will be included into this Final EIR for review and consideration of decisionmakers.

07-23

priority to environmental than to economic needs.” (San Francisco Ecology Center v. City and County of San Francisco (1st Dis. 1974) 48 Cal.App.3d 584, 590-591). If the lead agency intends to approve the environmentally more destructive Alternatives 2, 3 or 4, it should be on notice that such a decision “must be made on public objectives of the project”. (Guidelines 15021(d)).

XXI. NO STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION

SHOULD BE ISSUED BY THE LEAD AGENCY

We ask that the lead agency prepare a final EIR that interprets CEQA to afford the fullest possible protection for the environment within the reasonable scope of the statutory language. (*Friends of Mammoth v. Board of Supervisors* (1972) 8 Cal.3d. 247). We request the lead agency require additional changes and alterations in the project to avoid and substantially lessen the significant impacts that have been reported in the draft EIR, satisfying the requirements of CEQA Section 21001.

After certifying the EIR, we ask the lead agency select the “no discretionary action” alternative because it has a right to approve or disapprove the project. The size of the proposed project places it in the “discretionary” category. This project is one in which the lead agency can impose reasonable conditions, based upon judgment.

XXII.

Thank you for the opportunity of allowing us the opportunity to comment on the draft EIR. We stress the importance of selecting Alternative 1, and not Alternatives 2, 3 or 4 which place impacts nearer the Hyperion plant. This would greatly minimize the impacts upstream in the Sepulveda Basin. We look forward to receiving a detailed and comprehensive final EIR, fully in compliance with CEQA, State and local Guidelines.

Executed at Encino, California on January 4, 2006

by Gerald A. Silver,
President, Homeowners of Encino.

GERALD A. SILVER

07-24

07-25

Response to Comment O7-25

The Recommended Alternative was based on how well the alternative meets the Project Objectives detailed in Section 1.3 of the Draft EIR. City Council will balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the alternatives against the potential unavoidable impacts in their decision regarding the alternative to approve. Your comments regarding the potential for the Project Alternatives to cause environmental impacts within the Sepulveda Basin are addressed in response to comments O7-1 to O7-6 and O7-12. Your comment is noted and will be included in this Final EIR for review and consideration of decisionmakers.

ATHAM & WATKINS LLP

February 27, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE (323) 342-6210 AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Adel Hagekhalil
 City of Los Angeles
 Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
 Wastewater Engineering Services Division
 2714 Media Center Drive
 Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Integrated Resources Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH No.
2004071091

Dear Mr. Hagekhalil:

On behalf of our clients, Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association and Forest Lawn Mortuary (together "Forest Lawn"), we have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("Draft EIR") for the Integrated Resources Plan ("IRP"). Forest Lawn has an understandable interest in this project, as it relies on recycled water to maintain the 439 acre cemetery at its Hollywood Hills site. In addition, upon reviewing the Draft EIR, Forest Lawn is concerned that the proposed Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer Line South ("GBIS South") alignment could interfere with Forest Lawn's service to the Los Angeles community.

1. Project Alternatives

After reviewing the Draft EIR and the evaluation of the preferred alternative involving expansion of Hyperion Waste Treatment Facility, Forest Lawn would like the Bureau of Sanitation ("the Bureau") to further consider selecting Alternative 2, which would include expansion of the Tillman and Los Angeles-Glendale Facilities. If Alternative 2 is not selected, Forest Lawn requests that the Bureau consider the production expansion of the Los Angeles-Glendale facility in addition to other proposed changes to the Hyperion and Tillman facilities.

The Los Angeles-Glendale facility supplies Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills with its recycled water supply, which is currently limited to 1500 gallons per minute. This supply barely meets Forest Lawn's current recycled water needs. In addition, Forest Lawn is surrounded by uses that are also prime candidates for recycled water use, including Griffith Park and the

08-1

08-2

Letter O8. Signatory – Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association

Response to Comment O8-1

Comment noted. Refer to the responses to specific comments below.

Response to Comment O8-2

Comment noted. As described in the Draft EIR, Alternatives 1, 3, and 4 do not involve expansion of LAG but do include a 5-MG recycled water storage tank. The recycled water storage tank would allow recycled water to be produced (and stored) when actual recycled water demand is low (evenings) thus allowing greater recycled water use although LAG expansion would not occur under those alternatives. Because of this, adequate recycled water to accommodate the potential uses identified by the commenter is expected to be available regardless of the selected alternative. As a note, Alternative 4 was selected as the Recommended Alternative and is recommended for implementation.

Regarding the comment that the Recommended Alternative would not adequately meet recycled water demands in the vicinity of Forest Lawn, this is inaccurate. LAG is currently operating at below its currently rated capacity of 20 mgd and its assumed derated capacity of 15 mgd. As additional recycled water demands develop in the vicinity of Forest Lawn, additional recycled water can be produced. In addition, LADWP currently supplies recycled water to Griffith Park. LADWP is responsible for implementing recycled water projects and will continue to operate the existing recycled water system and explore expansion opportunities in the area served by LAG.

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grassland area that will cover the Silver Lake Storage Replacement Project proposed by the Department of Water and Power ("DWP").

The preferred alternative, however, would circumvent supplying additional water to these prime candidates for recycled water use. Because the Los Angeles-Glendale facility is the natural supplier for locations in the 5-134 corridor area, improvements to the Hyperion or Tillman facilities would not adequately address this need and opportunity for additional recycled water use. This would likely result in additional demand on potable water supplies, where recycled water supplies would be appropriate, as water demand for these sites grows while access to recycled water does not change. In addition, Forest Lawn, Griffith Park, and the Silver Lake Storage Replacement Project are close together, reducing the infrastructure necessary to supply additional recycled water from the Los Angeles-Glendale facility to the sites.

Forest Lawn contributes to the City's water conservation goals by utilizing recycled water, and would appreciate the opportunity, with its neighbors, to do more. By creating an additional supply of recycled water that can be used for the maintenance of the grounds at Forest Lawn, Griffith Park, the Silver Lake Storage Replacement Project, as well as other sites throughout the area, the Bureau would truly be planning for the next twenty or more years through the Integrated Resources Plan. Forest Lawn hopes the Bureau will more seriously consider expanding the Los Angeles-Glendale facility to supply these ideal recycled water consumers with a full present and future supply of recycled water.

2. The Proposed CBIS South Alignment

Forest Lawn is concerned with several elements of the Draft EIR related to the proposed GBIS South Alignment. While Forest Lawn is aware that the Bureau has not yet determined which alignment the GBIS will use, Forest Lawn is concerned that the Draft EIR does not adequately address concerns related to Forest Lawn's operation of a much-needed community service.

a. Cumulative Projects Analysis

The Draft EIR discusses several projects that will occur in and around Forest Lawn's Hollywood Hills location, including the DWP's proposed Lower and Upper Reach Projects. The Draft EIR does not mention, however, the DWP's Silver Lake Storage Replacement Project, which includes building a 110-million gallon underground reservoir at the Headworks Spreading Grounds, which is located directly across Forest Lawn Drive from Forest Lawn. This major infrastructure project will have very significant impacts on the entirety of Forest Lawn Drive and the surrounding area, yet this project is not mentioned or considered in the Draft EIR. This cumulative impact must be considered in addition to the Lower Reach Project and other proposed DWP projects including construction in and around the Headworks Spreading Grounds site.

Letter O8. Signatory – Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association

Page 2

Response to Comment O8-3

As described in Section 2 of the Draft EIR, a majority of the construction and operation of the proposed sewer infrastructure (both GBIS alignments) would occur belowground. Section 3 of the Draft EIR analyzed in detail the potential impacts from the construction (i.e., shaft sites) and operation (i.e., ATFs) of the sewer on adjacent land uses. As it relates to Forest Lawn, the Draft EIR analyzed the proposed shaft sites at the Barham Shaft Site and the Travel Town Shaft Site, which are closest to Forest Lawn, and no aboveground structures (with the exception of maintenance holes) are proposed in the proximity of Forest Lawn. Although the Barham Shaft Site could require the closure of a parking lane and a travel lane on Forest Lawn Drive near Barham Boulevard, all construction in the street would require work area traffic control plans, which would be reviewed and approved by the City's Department of Transportation. The traffic control plan would ensure that potential traffic impacts along Forest Lawn Drive are kept to a minimum and that traffic control practices and safety measures acceptable to the City's Department of Transportation are implemented.

Response to Comment O8-4

Revisions have been made to the Draft EIR, and included in Section 2 of this Final EIR, to include the proposed LADWP Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Storage Replacement Project. Based on the timing of this project, there is a possibility that a portion of the GBIS South Alignment (e.g., Travel Town and Barham shaft sites), if chosen, could cause short-term (construction) adverse traffic impacts. Section 3.17.3.3 of the Draft EIR, mitigation measures that would be implemented during construction (TRA-MM-1 through TRA-MM-7) would provide detailed site-specific traffic control plans to be approved by LADOT that includes elements such as location of any street closures, restricted hours, detours, haul routes, coordination with emergency and public service providers, and notice of construction to adjacent properties.

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b. Aesthetics

The Draft EIR does not address the aesthetic impacts that would be caused by the proposed construction of the GBIS South. As is correctly noted in the Draft EIR, Forest Lawn Drive is a City-Designated Scenic Highway, yet the Draft EIR suggests construction running from Travel Town to Barham Boulevard for up to three years. Forest Lawn requests that the aesthetic value of Forest Lawn Drive, as recognized by the City of Los Angeles, be considered in evaluating alternatives for the GBIS. In addition, the aesthetic impacts of the GBIS South alignment should also be considered with respect to the significant amount of construction that will be occurring on and adjacent to Forest Lawn Drive in the next ten years due to other projects planned in the vicinity.

c. Noise and Odor

As we are sure you can appreciate, Forest Lawn is an especially sensitive use when noise and odor are involved. Forest Lawn conducts outdoor interment services on a daily basis. While Forest Lawn understands that the long term operational impacts of many infrastructure improvement projects can have little or no effect on Forest Lawn's operations, Forest Lawn is especially sensitive to construction impacts of these projects.

The proposed construction noise levels are expected to be over 80 dBA on sites around Forest Lawn. Forest Lawn is a sensitive use that opens to the roadway and related construction below, which makes it susceptible to noise impacts on the construction sites. This level of noise is already unacceptable for cemeteries, as noted in the Draft EIR, and will be made even louder by the cumulative impacts of the multiple construction projects planned in and around the vicinity of Forest Lawn Drive. Despite assertions in the Draft EIR that construction noise will raise the noise level at Forest Lawn by no more than 5 dBA, the cumulative effect of the multiple planned construction projects in and around Forest Lawn Drive, which could significantly raise noise levels at Forest Lawn, must be considered. Operation of the project could also increase ambient noise levels by 3 dB or more (CNEL), which, given current construction plans and freeway traffic increases, could result in a noticeable increase in noise at Forest Lawn.

In addition, Forest Lawn is concerned that the GBIS South alignment could subject it to construction and operational odor concerns. Because Forest Lawn is a primarily outdoor use, sewer line odors could be potentially devastating to Forest Lawn's business, as well as devastating to the families and friends of the decedents interred the site. This sensitivity must be considered when determining what sewer line alternative is most appropriate given the surrounding uses.

d. Traffic

Forest Lawn is especially troubled by the traffic impacts the GBIS South would have on Forest Lawn Drive. The only entrance to Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills is on Forest Lawn Drive, and Forest Lawn Drive also acts as a bypass road for users trying to avoid commute traffic on the 5, 134, and 101 freeways.

Letter O8. Signatory – Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association

Page 3

Furthermore, an additional mitigation measure, TRA-MM-11, has been added (see Section 2 of this Final EIR), which requires a site-specific traffic control plan (requiring approval from LADOT) that would specifically address potential conflicts if the GBIS South Alignment or the staff recommended GBIS Alignment (refer to Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR) and simultaneous construction occurs at Travel Town and Barham shaft sites and the LADWP Silver Lake project. With implementation of these mitigation measures, construction impacts would not be cumulatively considerable, and a less than significant traffic impact would remain related to traffic during construction.

Response to Comment O8-5

Section 3.2.4.1 of the Draft EIR provides details on the construction and operation of the proposed interceptor sewers (NEIS II and GBIS), including specifics associated with each proposed alignment, as each of these project-level components relate to potential aesthetic impacts. One of the thresholds of significance related to aesthetics is the consideration of whether the project would adversely affect the designated status of a scenic highway, corridor, or parkway. As noted by the commenter, as noted in the Draft EIR (on page 3.2-134), construction at the proposed Travel Town and Barham shaft sites (associated with the GBIS South Alignment) would be adjacent to, and visible from, the City-designated scenic corridor of Forest Lawn Drive. Although construction is estimated to occur over a 3-year period, construction at each of these shaft sites would occur behind a 20-foot construction barrier (page 3.2-134). Construction activities at the Travel Town Shaft Site could be visible barrier from the City-designated Forest Lawn Drive scenic corridor, while construction activities at the Barham Shaft Site would be visible from the same scenic corridor. Although construction would introduce elements that could contrast with the City-designated scenic corridor along portions of Forest Lawn

Drive, the impact would be temporary; therefore, the impact would be less than significant (Section 3.2.4.4 of the Draft EIR). As part of the process to identify the Recommended Alternative (Section 1.5 of this Final EIR), which includes the ranking of GBIS alignments, potential environmental effects of the components, including potential aesthetics impacts, were considered. As it relates to construction of other projects in the vicinity of Forest Lawn Drive (i.e., LADWP Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Storage Replacement Project that would be across from the proposed Travel Town Shaft Site), both projects would have barriers that could be visible from the eastern portion of the scenic corridor during construction. If chosen, operation of the GBIS South Alignment or staff recommended GBIS Alignment (refer to Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR) along Forest Lawn Drive would not involve any aboveground structures that would permanently and adversely affect the designated status of the scenic corridor. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O8-6

Construction, operational, and cumulative noise impacts are discussed in Section 3.13 of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR indicated that ambient noise levels at Forest Lawn Memorial Park would not incrementally increase noise levels by 5 decibels or more during construction. No air treatment facilities are being proposed at Travel Town, the nearest shaft site to Forest Lawn Memorial Park. As such, operational noise impacts are not anticipated. According to the cumulative impact analysis, significant localized and short-term cumulative noise impacts could occur during construction of GBIS.

Response to Comment O8-7

It should be noted that the staff recommended GBIS Alignment described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR would use the eastern portion of the GBIS South Alignment along Forest Lawn Drive. Both the GBIS South Alignment and the staff recommended GBIS Alignment would be located beneath Forest Lawn Drive at depths up to 115 feet. There are no diversions of other sewers proposed in the vicinity of Forest Lawn cemetery that could be a potential odor source. In addition, because required maintenance hole structures would be located at approximately mile intervals and the maintenance hole covers would be sealed, minimal if any odors along the alignment would be expected. The odor evaluation of the GBIS alignments indicates that there is a potential for odors in the near vicinity of air treatment facilities, however, no such facilities are proposed to occur in the vicinity of Forest Lawn cemetery under the GBIS South Alignment or the staff recommended GBIS Alignment. Therefore, odor impacts to Forest Lawn are not anticipated.

Response to Comment O8-8

The commenter restates the conclusion of the Draft EIR that potentially adverse impacts could occur on Forest Lawn Drive if the GBIS South Alignment were selected.

Although the two potential shaft sites that are located in the general vicinity of Forest Lawn Memorial Park Hollywood Hills (the Travel Town and Barham shaft sites) would both be located outside the adjacent street rights of way, it is not anticipated that any lane closures adjacent to the shafts would impact the Forest Lawn Memorial Park Hollywood Hills operations. The need to construct three maintenance hole structures along the alignment, however, could result the closure of up to two lanes on Forest Lawn Drive and lead to temporary adverse traffic impacts at that location. As noted on page 3.17-61 of the Draft EIR, the specific locations of the maintenance hole structures for the GBIS South Alignment cannot be definitely determined at this time and the actual maintenance hole structure locations could differ from those analyzed and listed in Table 3.17-21.

While the estimated construction time needed for each maintenance hole structure is approximately 3 months, as noted on page 3.17-64 of the Draft EIR, it is anticipated that the lane closures on Forest Lawn Drive could extend for most of the 3-year construction period in order to normalize the disruptions to traffic flow patterns where multiple maintenance hole structures would be located on continuous segments of major or secondary arterials and to maximize the efficiency of construction operations over the length of the alignment. As stated in TRA-MM-2 and TRA-MM-3 in Section 3.17.3.3 of the Draft EIR, to mitigate any potential adverse construction impacts, worksite traffic management plans and worksite traffic control plans will be prepared for each in-street construction site and approved by the City prior to any construction work and travel lanes will be eliminated only when absolutely necessary.

ATHAM & WATKINS^{LLP}

As is acknowledged in the traffic portion of the Draft EIR, construction impacts in and around Forest Lawn Drive will result in unacceptable levels of service, with a majority of service levels falling to LOS F, and could include the closure of up to two lanes on Forest Lawn Drive adjacent to Forest Lawn for up to three years. Not only is this level unacceptable in general, but this level of service on the only accessible roadway to the Forest Lawn site would be nearly impossible to manage. The Draft EIR also correctly notes that these proposed road closures would result in increased safety concerns for drivers, pedestrians, and bicycle riders in the area; safety issues have always been a concern for Forest Lawn Drive, and this increase in construction would only further complicate the already existing safety issues along the roadway.

In addition, the construction impacts of this project would be compounded with the other construction projects already planned for the area. The massive Silver Lake Storage Replacement Reservoir Project, as well as the Lower Reach and Upper Reach Projects, will result in extensive construction traffic on Forest Lawn Drive, aside from the construction impacts from this project.

08-8

e. Summary of Impacts

08-9

In sum, Forest Lawn believes that the impacts of GBIS South are too much for Forest Lawn and its neighbors to bear, and that one of the two GBIS North alignments would be the most environmentally sensitive and suitable site for this project. Forest Lawn urges the Bureau to consider the services Forest Lawn provides to the entire community, including those in the City of Los Angeles, and urges the Bureau to select one of the GBIS North alignment alternatives. Should the Bureau select the GBIS South alignment, Forest Lawn requests an immediate meeting to determine a proper mitigation plan for both construction and operational impacts of the alignment.

08-10

3. Temporary and Permanent Impacts to Recycled Water Supply

Of course, aside from direct construction impacts, Forest Lawn is also concerned about maintenance of its current recycled water supply. Forest Lawn thereby requests advance notice of any planned disruptions in recycled water supply and backup supplies to maintain the vast amounts of grass and landscaping at the site. In addition, Forest Lawn requests emergency backup water supply for any unplanned disruption of recycled water supply within 24 hours of the disruption.

4. Conclusion

Forest Lawn appreciates this opportunity to comment on the future of the City's infrastructure improvements. Forest Lawn is hopeful that these improvements can be made without threatening Forest Lawn's service to the community and access to its Hollywood Hills site via Forest Lawn Drive. Recognizing the important contributions Forest Lawn makes to the community through the provision of cemetery and mortuary services, as well as the contributions Forest Lawn makes to the City's water conservation plans, Forest Lawn is hopeful that it can work with the Bureau towards solutions that serve the entire community.

Letter O8. Signatory – Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association.

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The Draft EIR traffic impact analysis (Section 3.17) represents a conservative, worst-case assessment of the impacts likely to be experienced on the street system in the immediate vicinity of each site where in-street construction activities potentially could result in temporary lane closures. With mitigation, these temporary impacts would be less than significant.

Response to Comment O8-9

As discussed in the responses to comments O8-3 through O8-8, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment and the GBIS South Alignment are not expected to result in significant impacts to Forest Lawn operations. Because the staff recommended GBIS Alignment would place the tunnel beneath Forest Lawn Drive (as would the GBIS South Alignment), staff of the City's Bureau of Engineering would coordinate with the commenter during the design process, as requested, whichever GBIS alignment is selected for implementation.

Response to Comment O8-10

Comment noted. The LADWP would provide advance notification and coordination if interruptions of recycled water distribution are anticipated.

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP 213-891-8763 #4
Mr. Adel Hagekhalil
February 27, 2006
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LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have. We look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,


William F. Delvac
of LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

cc: Suzanne Davidson, Esq.

Letter O8. Signatory – Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association

Page 5

From: "Rex Frankel" <ballona.free.press@juno.com>
To: <debbie.pham@lacity.org>, <irp-eir@san.lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Feb 27, 2006 5:40 PM
Subject: comments on the IRP Draft EIR

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR FOR THE IRP

February 27, 2006
By Rex Frankel, director of Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
6038 w. 75th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045
310-572-6491

- O10-1 Our main concern with the IRP in its present form is that it is a very expensive project with little actual benefits for the environment, despite how it has been described since its inception. It mainly seems to encourage growth and development by expanding the drinking water supply and sewage treatment capacity, while any environmental benefits of a cleaner ocean and rivers that may occur are seemingly an afterthought.
- O10-2 Our concerns mainly deal with the runoff management component of the IRP. While runoff cleanup is the driving force behind the City's Proposition O and the IRP in order to comply with legal deadlines and agreements, this plan confuses capturing additional sources of drinking water with runoff cleanup. As a runoff cleanup method, this approach describes a huge "quantity" of water being captured, while minimizing the fact that huge amounts of poor "quality" water are still flowing into our creeks and ocean. It appears the preferred project is being incorrectly described on pages ES-9 and 2-80 as "managing 47% of wet weather runoff from a ½ inch storm citywide", and this, coupled with the statement that 53% of rainfall soaks into the ground, leaves the reader with the impression that 100% of all runoff will be managed under this plan. This is not correct.
- O10-3 The 791 million gallons a day to be collected in a storm under this plan is an amount equivalent to 47% of the first ½ inch of any storm, but it is NOT 47% of the actual first half-inch of the City's runoff, as clean water being captured hugely outweighs the amount of polluted water being captured.
- O10-4 Of the 4 wet weather management components detailed on page 8-17 of volume 3 of the facilities plan, 79% of the runoff is captured by two of these: on-site percolation and on-site storage/use (cisterns), capturing 629 out of the 791 million gallons a day. However, these two components don't catch only the first ½ inch of a storm, but as much capacity as the percolation sites and cisterns can hold. Contrast this with the Regional solutions/urban runoff plants component, which will capture only the first ½ inch of a storm event, or a total of 160 million gallons a day from a land area of approximately 9% of the City. It is obvious that well over three-quarters of the runoff being captured with this plan is clean, not the polluted water that has led to the violations of the Clean Water Act. This is proven by the fact that the two major runoff management components of the plan capture runoff from a relatively small portion of the City, and yet account for 79% of the captured runoff. It is clear that the runoff from the vast urbanized portions of the L.A. River, Ballona Creek, Compton Creek and Dominguez Channel watersheds is not being captured under the current plan. Something is wrong with the math. A more honest description of the current plan's runoff component would be that

Letter O10. Signatory – Ballona Ecosystem Education Project

Response to Comment O10-1

The IRP is a facilities plan that identifies viable alternatives to meet the future wastewater needs of the City while integrating future water resources and runoff needs. As described in Section 4 of the Draft EIR, treatment capacity expansion(s) would be based on SCAG population projections and implementation of proposed capacity expansions would be linked to actual flows. Therefore, the Project Alternatives would not cause unanticipated growth that is not already projected. Rather the Project Alternatives would ensure that wastewater associated with future population would be safely managed. The Project Alternatives do not propose expanding the drinking water supply; rather, they propose varying levels of recycled water reuse that would offset potable water usage. This would help meet future water demands while minimizing the need to expand the water supply. The Draft EIR discusses various anticipated environmental impacts of the project, as CEQA requires the identification of potentially significant environmental impacts. The Proposed Project Alternatives would all result in environmental benefits related to cleaner effluent discharges, improved runoff quality, and increased recycled water use. However, because thresholds of significance are based on the degree of adverse effects, the Draft EIR emphasizes a discussion of anticipated impacts relative to impact significance thresholds. Although beneficial impacts may not be discussed to the level desired by the commenter, the environmental benefits of the Project Alternatives will, nonetheless, result in environmental benefits.

Response to Comment O10-2

The estimated 47 percent of runoff managed from a ½-inch storm includes all the management components. The 53 percent is a number that describes the runoff coefficient of the area based on land use. As noted in Section 2 of the Draft EIR, the Project Alternatives would capture and treat both dry weather urban, would

capture and percolate runoff, would better control watering (smart irrigation) to minimize the generation of dry weather urban runoff, and could use treatment wetlands to improve water quality. The recycled water component of the IRP is clearly described in Section 2 of the Draft EIR as separate component from the runoff management components.

Response to Comment O10-3

Comment noted.

Response to Comment O10-4

Section 1 and Section 2 of the Draft EIR describes the Project Alternatives developed in the IRP Facilities Plan. These alternatives would manage runoff generated throughout the City, including the eastern portions of the San Fernando Valley. Section 2 of the Draft EIR describes the various runoff management strategies that would manage runoff in channels tributary to the Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek, and Compton Creek. The purpose of the runoff management strategies is to manage runoff and help meet current water quality requirements. Implementation plans for specific TMDLs will be prepared by the City of Los Angeles as required by the TMDLs. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O10-5

Comment noted. The volume of runoff managed by cisterns is an estimate based on frequency of storms and irrigation demands.

Response to Comment O10-6

Comment noted.

1160

From: "Mark Gold" <mgold@HealTheBay.org>
To: "Adel H Hagekhalil" <ahhageka@san.lacity.org>, "Paula Daniels" <pdaniels@BPW.LACITY.ORG>, <jshah@san.lacity.org>, <dpham@san.lacity.org>
Date: Tue, Feb 28, 2006 1:36 AM
Subject: IRP EIR comments

Adel and Paula - Here are Heal the Bay's comments. Enjoy.

We will send a hard copy separately.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our comments.

Talk to you soon.

Mark

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CC: "Kelly O'Brien" <kobrien@HealTheBay.org>

Letter O11. Signatory – Heal the Bay

Response to Comment O11-1

February 27, 2006

Mr. Adel Hagekhalil, Division Manager
Bureau of Sanitation, Wastewater Engineering Services Division
2714 Media Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Re: Comments on IRP EIR

Dear Mr. Hagekhalil:

On behalf of Heal the Bay and its over 12,000 members, I want to commend the City for pursuing the IRP approach. The City has undertaken a tremendous and innovative effort to integrate water supply, stormwater, and wastewater in an integrated planning approach. The multi-year, multi-stakeholder effort resulted in an IRP that can serve as model for other major cities and that can serve as the guidance document for Los Angeles' water management future. Heal the Bay participated in the IRP development since the beginning and we will continue to advocate for the entire city to adopt the IRP approach to manage ongoing and future water management decisions for Proposition O, the development of TMDL implementation plans, water reuse planning, wastewater management, and stormwater management.

Despite our strong support for the IRP approach, Heal the Bay has numerous comments on the EIR. Perhaps the organization's most important concern is our strong disagreement with the city on the environmentally superior alternative.

O11-1

Hyperion Treatment Plant expansion is NOT the environmentally superior alternative: The EIR states that Hyperion expansion is the environmentally superior alternative because of lower energy consumption and reduced air emissions. First of all, section 4 did not provide a side by side comparison of all the alternatives on environmental issues, including energy consumption and air emissions. Second of all, a quantitative approach to determining the environmentally superior alternative was not provided in the document. Thirdly, the alternative relies extensively on a massive upstream diversion effort of runoff to the sewer system, thereby potentially impacting treatment plant operation and sewer system capacity. Lastly, the stakeholders involved in assisting the city in the planning process did not support Hyperion expansion as the environmentally superior alternative.

Heal the Bay believes that Alternatives 2 and 4 are environmentally superior to the other alternatives. Both alternatives manage 42% of dry weather runoff and 47% of wet weather runoff. Both alternatives utilize treatment wetlands and urban runoff treatment plants. Although alternative 4 would result in the greatest wastewater reuse potential at 56,100 af/yr to 79,900 af/yr, alternative 2 provides the second greatest amount at 53,200 to 69,200 af/yr. The only major difference between the alternatives is that alternative 2

Although a side by side comparison of the impacts of the alternatives is not included in Section 4 of the Draft EIR, the EIR includes a co-equal discussion of the anticipated impacts (including air emissions and energy consumption) of each of the Project Alternatives. Where possible at the system-wide level, the level of anticipated impact under the various affected resources was considered in the identification of the Environmentally Superior Alternative. Although Alternative 1 would divert some dry weather runoff from inland drainages to the sewer system, the Alternative has been planned in an integrated manner and potential impacts to the treatment system and conveyance system are not expected to be a concern. During the alternatives development process, stakeholders input was considered and helped in the development of the recommended alternatives. As a note, the Environmentally Superior Alternative was developed based on impacts discussed in the Draft EIR, which are adverse. Although Alternatives 2 and 4, as identified by the commenter as being environmentally superior, would provide benefits such as potentially increased recycled water use, these alternatives would likely result in slightly higher adverse impacts than Alternative 1, as identified in the Draft EIR. Because the Draft EIR focuses on adverse impacts, the selection of the Environmentally Superior Alternative is based solely on adverse impact, rather than potential benefits. However, it should also be noted that the beneficial aspects of the Project Alternatives have been considered in the identification of a Recommended Alternative – Alternative 4 (refer to the discussion of the Recommended Alternative in Section 1.5 of this Final EIR).

Response to Comment O11-2

All of the Project Alternatives include, as a baseline set of conditions, ongoing inflow and infiltration reductions. The City currently implements and will continue to implement a program to reduce inflow and infiltration into the wastewater conveyance system; a program that is intended to minimize the potential for sewage overflows. LADWP continues to move forward with its aggressive water conservation program, which will include working with the City's Department of Building and Safety to evaluate and consider new water conservation technologies, including no-flush urinal technologies. Although not specifically components of the IRP, inflow/infiltration and new water conservation programs will continue no matter which alternative is chosen.

Response to Comment O11-3

The benefit of water conservation, reuse, and replenishment is inherent in many of the goals and objectives of the IRP (Section 1.3 of Draft EIR). The IRP encourages continuation of LADWP's water conservation efforts and exploration of additional water conservation opportunities. Through the integration process, LADWP's Urban Water Management Plan is aligned with the IRP. The potential benefits of these water management components (identified as potential ranges in the reduction of potable water usage in various portions of Section 2 of the Draft EIR) was used as a factor in determining the Recommended Alternative. The Draft EIR focuses on identifying and analyzing negative impacts. The benefits of the IRP will be more appropriately discussed in the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations as a means to assist the decisionmakers in their approval of the project.

Response to Comment O11-4

Smart irrigation under the IRP is proposed for residential, commercial and industrial properties throughout the City. Although installation of smart irrigation technology in City parks is under the purview of the Department of Recreation and Parks, LADWP is actively working

011-1 involves expansions at Glendale and Tillman while alternative 4 is just at Tillman. The end result is that less new pipe is required for alternative 2, but alternative 4 could result in greater water reuse. Under any circumstances, both alternatives are environmentally superior to alternative 1 in the primary critical area of integrated water resources management.

011-2 **The alternatives failed to include an analysis of the merits of reduced inflow and infiltration, a requirement to redirect downspouts to permeable areas, and a requirement to install waterless urinals in public and commercial restrooms –** All three of these measures are critical for a successful IRP. They reduce flows to the sewage treatment plants, reduce runoff volumes and reduce potable water consumption. All three efforts would result in more environmental management of millions of gallons of water every year. Please include all three of these programs in the alternatives analysis, the environmentally superior alternative, and the preferred alternative.

011-3 **The EIR does not include an assessment of the beneficial impacts of water conservation, increased reuse and stormwater recharge –** the focus in the EIR is exclusively on local supply and there's no question that an IRP approach will result in a more diverse, secure source of water for the city. However, the EIR should include the benefits of conservation, recharge and reuse on reducing imported potable water demand. Considering the City's history of environmental impacts in the Owens Valley caused by local water supply decisions, this omission is surprising. Clearly, the City needs to stabilize or reduce its reliance on imported water supplies. A thorough analysis on these issues in the EIR could help move the City in this direction.

011-4 **Smart irrigation retrofits must be required in public parks immediately –** Heal the Bay supports City efforts to promote and fund smart irrigation citywide. However, as a member of the City's citizen oversight advisory committee for Proposition O, I was disturbed to find out the volumes of potable water lost to the stormdrain system through decayed irrigation infrastructure. Millions of gallons of potable water are needlessly discharged every single day. Please emphasize that park irrigation retrofits should be initiated and completed by 2009-2010 at the latest.

011-5 **The EIR fails to identify a preferred alternative:** The EIR includes extensive analyses of all five alternatives including the no project alternative, yet it fails to identify the preferred alternative. Heal the Bay strongly urges the City to identify a preferred alternative in the EIR with the rationale for the choice. Heal the Bay believes that the preferred alternative should be alternative 2 or 4.

011-6 **The runoff volume “managed” must be defined –** It is unclear from the EIR what is meant by “managed” runoff. Does it mean treatment of runoff? Does it mean infiltration? Does it mean storage? Or does it mean a combination of the above. Also, the definition should include a quantitative definition of the level of treatment and volume of runoff stored or infiltrated.

with the Department of Recreation and Parks to place technology in appropriate park settings. LADWP also actively seeks funding, both internally and externally (through grants) to further this effort, as well as to make needed improvements to irrigation system infrastructure.

Response to Comment O11-5

The Draft EIR (Section 1.2.2) disclosed that the Preferred Alternative had not been identified yet, but would be identified prior to certification of the Final EIR. Subsequent to the close of the public review period for the Draft EIR, the City staff identified Alternative 4 as the Recommended Alternative for approval. Further information on the Recommended Alternative selection process is contained in Section 1.5 of this Final EIR. This Recommended Alternative is the same as identifying a Preferred Alternative.

Response to Comment O11-6

The use of the word “managed” in the Draft EIR as it relates to runoff corresponds to the handling, control and processing (in other words - management) of runoff. Some runoff management strategies would collect and percolate runoff, whereas other strategies would treat and release or treat and reuse urban runoff. Refer to Section 2 of the Draft EIR for a description of the runoff quantities managed for each Project Alternative.

O11-7

The wet weather volume managed calculations do not include explanations – The category of greatest concern is the wet weather volume managed on vacant lots. For all four alternatives, these volumes are enormous and range from 220 mgd to 360 mgd for alternative 3. All of this onsite percolation is in the East Valley. How were these volumes calculated? More importantly, how can vacant lots manage such enormous volumes of runoff? Is this just the Sun Valley projects? This makes up the vast majority of the volume percolated onsite. What is the land area that will receive the runoff for each of the alternatives and did the City consider how the runoff would be conveyed to all of these vacant lots?

O11-8

The EIR includes mention of renewable energy/sludge injection for the Terminal Island Treatment Plant – The proposed project was not discussed in any detail throughout the entire IRP process. This extremely controversial project should not be included in the IRP EIR. Please remove mention of the project on page 3.1.5. The TITP sludge injection project should be addressed solely in subsequent CEQA documents. The IRP should not be perceived as a programmatic EIR that covers this project.

O11-9

The EIR does not provide an explanation for why Tillman and Glendale WTPs need to be upgraded to MF and RO – What is the rationale for upgrading the facilities to microfiltration and reverse osmosis? If there is a regulatory requirement like meeting California Toxics Rule standards or metals TMDL requirements, please include it in the EIR. Or perhaps the additional treatment is needed to put the public's mind at ease for treated wastewater recharge in the East Valley. An explanation for why MF and RO are needed in addition to denitrification is necessary. Please provide an explanation of the incremental effluent quality improvement provided by each additional level of treatment at the upstream plants. Also, why is the City shifting from chlorination to UV disinfection? Heal the Bay supports the move, but a rationale and environmental analysis (disinfection byproducts and toxicity versus energy use) needs to be provided.

O11-10

The brine impacts to Hyperion are unclear – The EIR states that the brine impacts are unclear, but they must be assessed before any decision is made to go to MF and/or RO. If Hyperion is going to have major problems meeting Ocean Plan requirements or providing high quality wastewater for further treatment by the West Basin Municipal Water District, then this impact must be assessed. Realistically, the issue of secondary treatment water quality and high TDS could be a major concern for West Basin MWD and this impact is **not** adequately addressed in the EIR. Also, please provide the rationale (cost, etc.) for why a separate brine line was not considered.

O11-11

Miscellaneous concerns – Please include in section 2 all of the quantitative objectives (ex: percent runoff reduction, etc.) from the IRP's to alternatives. These should be listed in matrix form so one can compare the IRP alternatives. Also, the matrix should include the 4 EIR alternatives and the no project alternative for an easy comparison.

O11-12

The EIR includes the range of recycled water reuse, but there is no analysis of recycled water demand provided in the EIR. What basis did the City use to determine the demand for recycled water?

Response to Comment O11-7

The potential use of vacant lots in the east San Fernando Valley for infiltration purposes is based on runoff being diverted to these lots from adjacent drainage areas. The infiltration rate was calculated based on observed infiltration in east San Fernando Valley where the soil condition is optimal for infiltration.

Response to Comment O11-8

The Terminal Island Renewable Energy was identified as a related project for the purpose of addressing cumulative impacts and is not a component of the Project Alternatives. The Terminal Island Renewable Energy project is a separate project that would require its own environmental documentation.

Response to Comment O11-9

The IRP Facilities Plan addressed MF/RO as the selected treatment technology to meet a conservative estimate of projected water quality requirements to meet future discharge requirements for the Los Angeles River based on the California Toxics Rule (CTR). These requirements were based on Reasonable Potential Analysis (RPA) calculations related to the CTR. The application of this technology would be effective at meeting the most stringent regulatory requirements anticipated, in which advanced treatment of the entire plant effluent stream with MF/RO would be needed to meet these projected discharge limits. As described in Section 2.2.1.3 of the Draft EIR, since it is unknown what future policies and regulations may be encountered through 2020, MF/RO was evaluated in the Draft EIR to represent the most conservative (worst-case) analysis. In addition, if the City decides to implement groundwater replenishment in the future, the need for advanced treatment at Tillman is likely to be triggered.

Response to Comment O11-10

Refer to response to comment AJ3-48 regarding brine. Recycled water produced at West Basin is an important resource and the City will continue to provide West Basin with high quality effluent from Hyperion. Mitigation Measure WQ-MM-1 (brine pilot study) would ensure that significant impacts to surface waters or West Basin's recycled water product would not be jeopardized. The installation of a dedicated brine line from upstream treatment plants to the Hyperion outfall was not considered as it would not maximize the use of the existing system.

Response to Comment O11-11

Refer to Tables 2-11, 2-12, and 2-13 of the Draft EIR, which presents the wastewater, recycled water, and runoff parameters of four Project Alternatives in a matrix form. The No Project Alternative is described in Section 2.3.8 of the Draft EIR and would not result in integrated improvements. As described in the Draft EIR, under the No Project Alternative, individual wastewater, recycled water, and runoff management projects would likely be needed, but would be designed and constructed as the needs arise rather than planned in an integrated manner. Thus, none of the improvements listed in the above referenced tables is currently proposed under the No Project Alternative.

Response to Comment O11-12

The IRP components and alternatives are the product of the IRP Facilities Plan, which looked at the existing and potential future demands of water supplies, and potential conservation measures. As such, the Draft EIR provides an environmental analysis of the infrastructure and not an analysis of the recycled water demand. Details regarding the existing recycled water system and demands and the potential demands for recycled water are contained in Sections 6.1 and 6.2, respectively, of Volume 2 of the IRP Facilities Plan.

Response to Comment O11-13

O11-13

Much of the EIR reads like a descriptive list of alternatives and impacts without adequate explanation (Ex: why UV?, why MF/RO?, etc.), rationale or overview. The EIR does not include a clear nexus between some of the recommendations and specific existing or potential regulatory requirements (TMDLs, water quality standards, Title 22, etc.). This information would better explain many of the recommendations provided in the EIR.

The City is at a crossroads in making the water resources management decisions that will help define the future of Los Angeles. The last time the City was at a similar crossroads, over \$4 billion was spent to upgrade Hyperion, build Tillman and improve the City's degraded sewer infrastructure. As a result, sewage solids discharges to Santa Monica Bay decreased by over 90%, spills from Hyperion and the adjacent trunk lines were reduced dramatically in volume and frequency, and the City started to reuse recycled water.

Today, the City can make the decision to finally integrate all of its water resource management or it can continue the status quo of focusing on water supply issues without a coordinated water reuse effort or concerted stormwater recharge program. Also, the City can use integrated water resource management to provide Los Angeles with multi-use projects that provide flood control, habitat, recreation, and runoff pollution reduction or it can continue to focus the vast majority of its limited resources on wastewater treatment.

O11-14

The future of Los Angeles is in the hands of today's City leaders and the IRP is a major part of the blueprint for a greener Los Angeles. Please make sure that the right environmentally superior alternative is chosen (alternative 2 or 4) and that it becomes the City's preferred alternative. Then the City must adopt and use the IRP to guide decision making throughout the City including the Department of Public Works (Proposition O, LA River revitalization, TMDL compliance, stormwater compliance, wastewater management and recycled water production), DWP, Planning, and the Department of Recreation and Parks. Please let me know if there is any way that Heal the Bay can help make sure that the IRP doesn't turn out to be another well intentioned, ambitious effort that gathers dust on a shelf.

Sincerely,

Mark Gold, D.Env.
Executive Director
Heal the Bay

The Draft EIR provides a general description of the project goals and objectives in Section 1.3. The City is responsible for managing wastewater generated in the service areas and must do so in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. These include existing and pending TMDLs, water quality standards, Title 22 requirements, and other applicable laws and regulations. As briefly mentioned in response to comment O11-9, above, as MF/RO could be implemented to meet future NPDES permit requirements or to further treat the recycled water prior to reuse, it was evaluated in the EIR to represent the most conservative (worst-case) analysis. UV has been proposed to disinfect recycled water prior to discharge or reuse, and would replace the current process (disinfection with sodium hypochlorite). The Project Alternatives are based on the findings and extensive stakeholder participation associated with the IRP Facilities Plan. Further information is contained in Volume 1 of the IRP Facilities Plan.

Response to Comment O11-14

The identification of the Environmentally Superior Alternative is a requirement of CEQA, and has been provided based on the adverse impacts identified in the Draft EIR. The benefits of the Project Alternatives have been considered in the identification of the Recommended Alternative, which is recommended for implementation (refer to the discussion of the Recommended Alternative in Section 1.5 of this Final EIR). Your preferences have been noted.



February 15, 2006

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Jawahar P. Shah
Public Works Bureau of Sanitation
Wastewater Engineering Division
2714 Media Center Drive
Los Angeles CA 90065

"Nurturing
wildlife
and enriching
the human
experience"

Los Angeles Zoo
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles
California 90027
323/644-4200
Fax 323/662-9786
<http://www.lazoo.org>

O16-1
Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Mayor

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Kimberly Marteau
President

Karen B. Winnick
Vice President O16-2

Shelby Kaplan Sloan

Mark D. Persaud

Bernardo Silva

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

Dear Mr. Shah;

Following are the Los Angeles Zoo Department's written comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of November 30, 2005, regarding the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

Each IRP Alternative 1 through 4 includes the Phase II construction of the Northeast Interceptor Sewer (NEIS II). The Zoo is concerned with the alternatives for the NEIS II locations of Shaft Site and Air Treatment Facility. Since both the Zoo Parking Lot Location and the Observatory Annex Location are located on Zoo property, the Zoo supports the selection of the Pecan Grove Alternative for the location of the Shaft Site and Air Treatment Facility.

The Zoo agrees with the Environmental Impacts and the Mitigation Measures referred to on table ES-1 Summary of Environmental Effects AES-1 page ES-25, REC-1 page ES 53, BIO-1 page ES-33 and TRA-1 page ES-57. Specifically, issues and impacts related to locating a Shaft Site and Air Treatment Facility at the Zoo Parking Lot Site and Observatory Annex Site for the NEIS II construction and operation. Both the Zoo Parking Lot location and the Observatory Annex site greatly affect the Zoo aesthetically, biologically, recreationally, and displace approximately 225 parking spaces from the Zoo Parking Lot that does not appear to be able to be fully mitigated. Due to these impacts and the lack of complete mitigation measures, the Zoo supports the selection of Pecan Grove as the alternative shaft site.

If you have any further questions regarding these comments, please contact Darryl Pon, Project Manager, Zoo Planning and Development Division at (323) 644-4223.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. LEWIS
Zoo Director

JRL/DP:km



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American Zoo and
Aquarium Association

Member of the
California Association
Of Zoos and Aquariums

Letter O16. Signatory – Los Angeles Zoo

Response to Comment O16-1

In response to your comments, the Pecan Grove Shaft Site is recommended. Refer to Section 1.5.2.1 of this Final EIR for a description of the staff recommended NEIS II alignment and Section 1.5.2.2 of the Final EIR regarding the staff recommended GBIS Alignment.

Response to Comment O16-2

Thank you for your comment. Refer to response to comment O16-1 above regarding the staff recommended NEIS II and GBIS alignments.

From: Fran Reichenbach <beachwoodvoice@sbcglobal.net>
To: <IRP-EIR@san.lacity.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 3, 2006 3:41 PM
Subject: Response - comments on EIR IRP 2004071091

Below please find 6 points written by our local biologist, Dr. William Emboden concerning the water aspect of your Integrated Resource Plan EIR. Also see my comments on the parking issue that your report reflects.

Parking:

O17-1 Your report states that 225 parking spaces serving the L.A. Zoo will be lost if you go ahead with your program. You have not indicated alternative parking such as a multi-level structure or subterranean parking facilities to mitigate this. This parking lot serves what used to be the Gene Autry Museum as well as the L.A. Zoo. This is entirely unacceptable.

Water:

City of Los Angeles

Att: Jawahar P. Shah

Re: Integrated Resource Plan Report 2004071091 Dated November 30, 2005

O17-2 If this report was prepared in accord with CEQA, who were the individuals involved and what are their qualifications?

"Recycled water" is not clarified here in. Would you define it and provide a list of sources for "recycled water?"

You specify "recommended alternatives." What are these? Please clarify.

You use "potential water recycling component" and then list "projects." Are these IRP alternatives prepared to handle water from hospitals, mortuaries, slaughterhouses, and industrial firms producing carcinogens?

Biological impact is listed under "Less significant impacts." This includes human beings, animals, plants, ecological impact and atmospheric factors that pollute. Our current water system is hazardous to young people, older people and those with compromised immune systems (i.e., about 40% of the population).

We must know a great deal more about these issues before going forward.
Sincerely,

Dr. William A. Emboden, F.L.S.
Professor Emeritus, Biology, C.S.U.N.
Author of numerous articles, books, and environmental impact studies.
2933 N. Beachwood Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90068
323-461-1452
323-464-8463 Fax

O17-3 Atmosphere:

While you state that a foul odor will result from your project, you fail to clarify that which will generate this foul odor. What chemicals and organisms

Letter O17. Signatory – Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association

Response to Comment O17-1

As addressed in Section 3.17.3.3 of the Draft EIR (beginning page 3.17-82), the 225 parking spaces impacted at the Los Angeles Zoo would be during the 3-6 years of construction at that site, if chosen. Operation of an ATF at the Los Angeles Zoo parking lot would impact 30 parking spaces. Neither construction nor operation impacts warrant a multi-level or subterranean parking structure. The Draft EIR does note that the impact on parking at the Zoo would be significant and mitigation includes selection of the Pecan Grove Shaft Site (mitigation measure TRA-MM-9). As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the Pecan Grove Shaft Site is recommended.

Response to Comment O17-2

Section 6 of the Draft EIR includes the names and affiliations/companies of the document preparers. The term "recycled water" used throughout the Draft EIR is what the water industry uses to describe treated wastewater or domestic water that undergoes treatment that, at a minimum, meets the standards established by Department of Health Services (DHS) for the proposed use (i.e., tertiary for irrigation and industrial use). The list of sources of recycled water for the Project Alternatives are secondary effluent from Hyperion that is pumped to West Basin Water Recycling Facility, Tillman, LAG, TITP, and future URPs (see Section 2.2.2.2 of the Draft EIR for additional information). The "recommended alternatives" mentioned in the Executive Summary (ES1.4 of Draft EIR) refers to the Project Alternatives (i.e. Alternative 1, Alternative 2, etc.), and are described in detail in Section 2 of the Draft EIR. Every aspect of the potential water recycling components (i.e., nonpotable, groundwater replenishment, and URP components), as well as the operation and water quality at the treatment plants that would be sources of recycled water (i.e., Hyperion, West Basin, Tillman, LAG and TITP), are regulated by numerous water quality and health laws.

Letter O17. Signatory – Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association

- O17-3 are involved? We are aware of nitrous oxide producing cancer. To what degree will this foul odor create a hazard to our health.
- O17-4 Overall Concern for L.A.'s Municipal Water:
We want assurance that ultimately the water resulting from this project will not be the water we drink from our faucets.
Our organization would appreciate written clarification addressing the above issues.

Fran Reichenbach, founder and board member of the Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association

cc: Missy Kelly <missykelly@sbcglobal.net>, Colette Schamet <cschamet@dslextreme.com>, Terri Gerger <tgerger@pacbell.net>, Fran BeachwoodVoice <BeachwoodVoice@sbcglobal.net>, George Abrahams <ggg@copper.net>, Jack & Lillian Fitzgerald <jfnok@aol.com>, "jbutterflop@yahoo.com" <jbutterflop@yahoo.com>, Larry Markes <markes@lbbslaw.com>, "moniquwilmes@sbcglobal.net" <moniquwilmes@sbcglobal.net>, Tina Roman <tinaroman@sbcglobal.net>

In addition, the use of recycled water is regulated depending on water quality. Biological impacts, as addressed in Section 3.5 of the Draft EIR, are those potential impacts to plants and animals. The potential for the project to impact human beings is addressed in detail by subject matter in various sections of the Draft EIR. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O17-3

As detailed in Section 3.4.2.2 of the Draft EIR, the primary odorous substances associated with the wastewater treatment system are primarily generated as a result of decomposition of organic material in the wastewater and sludge. The most prevalent odorous substances are hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, and mercaptans. Section 3.4.2.2 of the Draft EIR further identifies the mechanisms for creating those substances, as associated with wastewater treatment. Some odorous substances (such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia) and a number of non-odorous substances are also classified as toxic air contaminants. The impact of toxic air contaminant emissions on human health is assessed throughout Section 3.4 for the various project components. Nitrous oxide, however, is not classified by the State as a toxic air contaminant.

Response to Comment O17-4

The Project Alternatives include recycled water reuse as a program-level component. As described in Section 2.2.2.2 of the Draft EIR, there are two types of uses for recycled water use, nonpotable recycled water use and indirect potable use of recycled water through groundwater replenishment. Under the nonpotable recycled water reuse type, the recycled water distribution system in and around the City's water reclamation plants would be expanded to increase the base of recycled water users (i.e., including industrial and irrigation users). Groundwater replenishment would allow expanded recycled water use beyond the nonpotable use potential where advanced treated recycled water would be pumped to the Hansen Spreading Grounds and possibly the Pacoima Spreading Grounds for groundwater replenishment, which is an indirect potable use of

recycled water. If, in the future, the City decides to pursue groundwater replenishment with advanced treated recycled water, the City would conduct a project-specific environmental review and undergo an extensive and open permitting process through the DHS and Regional Water Quality Control Board. In addition, the permitting process would include public hearings to ensure that public concerns are considered.

SCNC BOARD

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Jawahar P. Shah
City of Los Angeles
Public Works, Bureau Of Sanitization
Wastewater Engineering Services Division
2714 Media Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065

February 8, 2006

Dear Jawahar P. Shah:

The following is a motion passed at our November board meeting.

Motion to protect and save Woodbridge Park

In order to protect the limited amount of parks and open spaces, and recreational activities within our community, to keep our children's playgrounds open, to shield the students of Oakwood Elementary School, save the approximately \$200,000 of public funds recently spent in renovating the Woodbridge Park, to preserve the quality of life in our Tujunga Village neighborhood, and avoid the numerous detrimental neighborhood impacts....

MOTION 2005.11.16-100:

- 1) It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that it **strongly opposes** the possible selection of Woodbridge Park by the Department of Public Works as the location of the tunneling shafts as part of the NorthEast Interceptor Sewer (phase 2)
- 2) It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that the only feasible location under consideration is the Caltrans Maintenance Station located on Moorpark Avenue near the 170 freeway, and

Letter O19. Signatory – Studio City Neighborhood Council

Response to Comment O19-1

Your motion and opposition to the possible selection of Woodbridge Park has been noted. Refer to Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR for a discussion of the staff recommended GBIS Alignment, which does not include Woodbridge Park.

O19-1

Letter O19. Signatory – Studio City Neighborhood Council
Page 2

3) The SCNC Board requests that prior to the environmental impact report (EIR), Councilmember Wendy Greuel join us in **strongly opposing** the possible choice of Woodbridge Park as the site for this project, and insisting that the Caltrans Maintenance Station at Moorpark Avenue and the 170 Freeway is the only feasible location.

12-0-0, motion passes
MOTION 2005.11.16-101

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Rafi Kuyumjian
SCNC Board President


CC: Wendy Greuel



456

Letter O21. Signatory – Oakwood School

Response to Comment O21-1

Various portions of Section 3 of the Draft EIR address in detail the potential impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed GBIS alignments (including aboveground structures such as shaft sites and ATFs at Woodbridge Park) as it relates to the potential impacts on adjacent land uses related to such resource issues as aesthetic, air quality, land use, noise, public services, recreational, and traffic. As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the preferred western terminus of the staff recommended GBIS Alignment is the Caltrans North Hollywood Maintenance Yard. Woodbridge Park is no longer under consideration as a shaft site or for the placement of an air treatment facility.

In conclusion, project features and mitigation measures have been included in the Draft EIR, as applicable, to reduce potential construction and operational impacts. All the potential environmental impacts of the various interceptor sewer alignments (both NEIS II and GBIS) have been taken into consideration when determining the staff recommended NEIS II and GBIS alignments (refer to Section 1.5 of this Final EIR). Comment noted.

February 23, 2006

Jawahar P. Shah
City of Los Angeles
Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation
Wastewater Engineering Services Division
2714 Media Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Sir:

I am writing to oppose the proposed selection of Woodbridge Park in Studio City as a tunneling site as part of the Northeast Interceptor Sewer for the City of Los Angeles' Integrated Resources Plan, Facilitated Resources Plan.

Woodbridge Park serves many functions: it is a recreational resource for many residents – both homeowners and apartment dwellers; it is a consistent destination point for many who live outside the immediate area, but are close enough to enjoy its amenities; it is the very recent recipient of a new play area for toddlers and a newly landscaped southern entrance – paid for with over \$200,000 in public bond funds; its visitors enjoy state-of-the-art play equipment from a renovation less than five years ago; it is one of the few parks that also has open areas that are not in continuous use by large sports programs; and finally, because so many walk to this park, it has a positive impact on the environment by reducing gas emissions from motor vehicles.

O21-1

If this project were to go forward and the park chosen as the tunneling site, all of these functions would cease to exist for over four years. This is a site surrounded by homes, a school, a day care center, and a church. All would suffer impacts that could not be sufficiently mitigated. These impacts include: loss of recreation and open space; constant hauling of construction dirt along residential streets and a secondary highway which is already clogged with traffic; air, noise and visual pollution 24 hours per day; future loss of the park in its current configuration; loss of physical education space for Oakwood School which has an existing contract with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for use of a section of the park during the school year.

No one questions the need to improve our sewer system. But to destroy a heavily-used and well-loved neighborhood park next to a fifty-five year old neighborhood school is definitely not the right choice for a city that has just released an audit showing the need for public parks. Please eliminate Woodbridge Park from your selection alternatives.

Sincerely,


Mikie Maloney
818-752-4430
mmaloney@oakwoodschool.org



January 12, 2006
RE: City of Los Angeles Integrated Resources Plan

Sirs:

My name is Mikie Maloney. I am the Director of Community Relations for Oakwood School in North Hollywood. I am here to express my opposition to the use of Woodbridge Park in Studio City as a tunneling site for this project.

O22-1

Oakwood School sits immediately adjacent to Woodbridge Park. The school, which opened in 1951, was there before the park was established, and in the ensuing years, the school has become a fixture in the community. Oakwood is currently in the midst of a multiphase redevelopment project and is half-way through the first phase - a \$6 million dollar improvement to the campus and to the neighborhood. That project involves an expensive and ambitious state-of-the-art geothermal system which could be adversely affected by the tunneling. Establishing this tunneling site in Woodbridge Park would have a disastrous impact on Oakwood School and on the single family neighborhood which surrounds it.

O22-2
Our school has used Woodbridge Park for decades for physical education classes and some activities. Like many schools in Los Angeles, we are limited in our on campus play space and rely on nearby parks for additional play area. We have a contract with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for use of part of the park for P.E. during the school day. We take out additional permits to use part of the park for our Back to School Picnic and School Fair.

O22-2

This is a neighborhood park used both by neighbors and by those who live further away. Several years ago all new play equipment was purchased by the City and installed, and last year, \$200,000 in bond funds was allocated for improvements. Those improvements - a new toddler play area, landscaping and sitting area - are currently being completed. That money will have been wasted if this site is selected. To my knowledge, there is no other park with similar equipment within walking distance of this neighborhood. It is important to be able to walk to a park - it reduces gas emissions and it fosters a sense of ownership and community. That was just made easier with the installation of a new crosswalk in front of the park - a crosswalk long requested by the school and the community. It is now heavily used.

O22-3

The issue of pollutants is a major concern. Our Kindergarten through sixth grade students will be right next to all of this pollution for thirty-four hours per week, thirty-nine weeks per year. Some children in the neighborhood will be exposed even more.

O22-4

And, finally, the school - and to our knowledge - our neighbors received no notice of this project or the hearings. Although we are listed as suffering significant negative impacts in the Draft EIR, the school has not been approached by anyone connected to this EIR or this project. We learned of this upon returning from Winter Break on January 3 - and the notification came from sources not connected to the project.

O22-5

We understand the need to upgrade our sewer and wastewater facilities. We understand the need to increase treatment capacity to meet both current and future needs. But we do not understand the need to ruin a vibrant and heavily used recreational facility and seriously jeopardize the operation of a well regarded fifty-five year old school in the process. We oppose this project and will join with others in our area to fight it.

Mikie Maloney
Director of Community Relations, Oakwood School
11600 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood CA 91601
818-752-4430/mmaloney@oakwoodschool.org

Letter O22. Signatory – Oakwood School

Response to Comment O22-1

As detailed in response to comment O21-1, various portions of Section 3 of the Draft EIR analyze the potential impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed GBIS alignments (including aboveground structures such as shaft sites and ATFs at Woodbridge Park) as it relates to the potential impacts on adjacent land uses related to such resource issues as aesthetic, air quality, land use, noise, public services, recreational, and traffic, to name a few. As described in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the preferred western terminus of the staff recommended GBIS Alignment is the Caltrans Maintenance Yard, and Woodbridge Park is no longer under consideration as a shaft site or for the placement of an air treatment facility.

Response to Comment O22-2

Your comments are noted. Refer to Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR for a discussion on the staff recommended GBIS Alignment.

Response to Comment O22-3

Refer to the portion of response to comment O21-1 that described the potential air quality impacts as detailed in the Draft EIR.

Response to Comment O22-4

Refer to Section 1.2 of this Final EIR for a detailed description of the public outreach associated with the Draft EIR.

Response to Comment O22-5

The portion of the City of Los Angeles that would be served by the proposed GBIS is an urbanized area where space for such necessary infrastructure is difficult to find without disrupting environmental resources (such as aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, recreation, traffic, and generally inconveniencing adjacent land uses). This also makes options and optional terminus locations difficult to find (these options are necessary in the event that one of the locations can not be secured). A further consideration in locating aboveground expressions of these large sewers is proximity to the area that the sewers are intended to relieve or improve. As noted above, refer to Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR for the staff recommended GBIS Alignment which states that Woodbridge Park is no longer under consideration as a shaft site or for the placement of an air treatment facility. Comment noted.

Letter O23. Signatory – Mono Lake Committee

From: "Frances Spivy-Weber" <frances@monolake.org>
To: <IRP-EIR@san.lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Feb 27, 2006 5:38 PM
Subject: Comments on the IRP

The Attached Comments are from

Frances Spivy Weber
Mono Lake Committee
1200 South Catalina Ave., #406
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310-316-0041

Joe Geever
Surfrider Foundation
8117 W. Manchester Ave. #297
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
310-410-2890

and additional parties listed on the document

**ivyADRO, Inc. Asian American Drug Abuse Program
California Water Impact Network Community Enhancement
Services Dorothy Green Mono Lake Committee
Southern California Watershed Alliance Surfrider Foundation**

Comments on the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation and Department of Water and Power INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN Draft Environmental Impact Report

Re: Qualified support for Alternative 4

O23-1

On behalf of those listed below, we give qualified support to Alternative 4: Tillman Expansion (to 100 mgd) with Cisterns as the preferred alternative.

O23-2

Summary Comment on Watershed Approach: We commend the City for pursuing an integrated wastewater facilities plan, which includes wastewater, recycled water, conservation and runoff systems in the City. This is an important step in the right direction toward a watershed approach, but this program and approach will have even greater success when the lead agencies, LA Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Water and Power, make other City departments, such as Planning, the Port, the energy side of DPW, and other parts of DPW; neighboring jurisdictions, such as Los Angeles County, West Basin MWD, and the Water Replenishment District; and community and business leaders strong partners. Therefore, we recommend a parallel outreach plan be developed and presented with the IRP to the City Council this summer.

O23-3

The City Council should also receive accompanying recommendations for important changes needed in Los Angeles' building codes that will allow on-site stormwater management and improved dry weather runoff management.

O23-4

In addition, the City Council should see the long list of multiple benefits generated by an integrated resource management approach in this wastewater facilities plan, and where possible, these benefits should be quantified. For example, water recycling, landscape conservation, and on-site storm water management, could reduce demand for imported water from Northern California by 100%, which in turn reduces the City's risk of interrupted supplies due to drought, earthquakes, and climate change. The cost of these proposed local supplies is equal or less than the cost of supplies imported from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). There are also significant job creation opportunities over and above construction work, such as identifying customers for recycled water not only in Los Angeles, but across jurisdictional boundaries; training for landscape maintenance people; and community-based projects to replace plant palettes and water-wasting sprinklers.

O23-5

Finally, there may be more funding available from the State and Federal government, and regional entities, such as MWD, for integrated management activities, and these potential opportunities should be itemized and presented to the City Council.

O23-6

Letter O23. Signatory – Mono Lake Committee

Page 2

Response to Comment O23-1

Comment noted. Section 1.5 of this Final EIR identifies Alternative 4 as the Recommended Alternative and is recommended for implementation.

Response to Comment O23-2

The IRP is a joint effort between the City's Department of Public Works (Bureau of Sanitation) and LADWP. The IRP is one of many efforts of City and other local agencies to protect and manage our available resources. As a note, recommendations that would require a coordinated effort by the City's departments, including LADWP, LADPW, Planning, and outside agencies/jurisdictions will be made to City Council as part of the IRP approval process.

Response to Comment O23-3

Comment noted. Coordination between LADPW and the Department of Building and Safety regarding specific activities would occur following consideration of the IRP by City Council.

Response to Comment O23-4

The IRP presents four Alternatives to meet the future wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles in the year 2020 and integrates the recycled water and the runoff systems. The benefit of water conservation, reuse and replenishment is inherent in many of the goals and objectives of the IRP (Section 1.3 of Draft EIR). The potential benefits of these water management components (identified as potential ranges in the reduction of potable water usage in various portions of Section 2 of the Draft EIR) have been used as a factor in determining the Recommended Alternative (see Section 1.5). As the focus of the Draft EIR (as most EIRs) is the identification and analysis of negative impacts, the benefits of the IRP will be more appropriately discussed in the Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations as a means to assist the decisionmakers in their approval of the project. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O23-5

Comment noted. Refer to response to comment O23-4.

O23-7

Below are comments on our assumptions, concerns, questions, and additional actions that should be taken to meet the water supply and water quality goals of the City:

Recycled Water: We are assuming the City's goal is to make the maximum use of recycled water in a manner that protects the health and safety of the community, by:

- a. Investing in advanced treatment (micro-filtration, reverse osmosis, UV disinfection, and advanced oxidation) at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in order to recharge the groundwater at Hansen Spreading Grounds, using the existing East Valley pipeline;
- b. Constructing a lateral pipeline from Hansen to the Pacoima Spreading Grounds;
- c. Constructing additional groundwater monitoring wells, in addition to the eleven already in place, to give ample data on groundwater quality.
- d. Ensuring that expanded recycling capacity is well within Hyperion's discharge and salinity permits, and does not jeopardize recycled water production from West Basin MWD.

The cost of this alternative, which includes using recycled water from Tillman, Terminal Island, and modest amounts from Hyperion and LA/Glendale is estimated to be \$504/acre-ft/yr in 2004 dollars [Source: IRP Facilities Plan, Volume 4, Appendix R, Alternative Development and Analysis], a favorable cost when you combine the drought-proof reliability of recycled water and compare it to the purchase of imported MWD water, currently priced at \$453-549/acre-ft and much more vulnerable to disruption.

Not considered in this EIR is the option of working with West Basin Water Recycling Facility to fully plumb the Los Angeles Port area with recycled pipes and work with Port industries to opt for using advanced treated recycled water from Hyperion. This option could be ready to go in 2007.

Landscape Conservation: Since it is estimated that Los Angeles home-owners, businesses, and government use 50% of the City's potable water on landscapes, reducing the amount of water used, while maintaining attractive outdoor areas, is a high priority.

The EIR identifies Smart Irrigation devices as the way to minimize dry weather runoff, which we support. Ten percent of outdoor water use is due to over-watering, which these devices will control, without changing plant materials. Reduced watering will also reduce green waste.

Not considered, however, is the importance of promoting native and drought-tolerant plants, which can, after the initial 2-3 years of establishing the garden, eliminate the need for water except during prolonged dry periods.

It will be extremely important for LADWP to work with the Los Angeles Planning Department and other agency and environmental and environmental justice outreach efforts to develop and implement a successful water conservation program.

WB062006007SCO SCO176179.03.05.01/RTC/Organizations_1.doc 08/06

Letter O23. Signatory – Mono Lake Committee

Page 3

Response to Comment O23-6

Comment noted.

Response to Comment O23-7

The benefit of water conservation, reuse and replenishment is inherent in many of the goals and objectives of the IRP. The Recycled Water - Nonpotable Reuse component analyzed throughout the Draft EIR includes the expansion of the recycled water distribution system from TITP (page 2-47 of Draft EIR). The Draft EIR has evaluated system-wide alternatives that all include a recycled water component. The recycled water component is evaluated at a program-level because specific locations and projects are not yet identified. The City is currently evaluating the recycled water potential in the TITP service area and the potential users, including the Port of Los Angeles. LADWP, not West Basin, will be the supplier of the recycled water from TITP. The City operates TITP located on Terminal Island to treat wastewater and produce recycled water. Plumbing the Port area for recycled water distribution is not considered by the Draft EIR as part of the recycled water component; as such a project would require further development before it can be considered a project. However, the development of such a project is not precluded, and if it is determined feasible, it would be subject to further environmental review. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O23-8

The City, in particular LADWP, is encouraging water conservation through several programs and sustainable management practices. As landscaping can account for about half of the water Californians use at home, the City has developed guidelines and programs to encourage xeriscaping (simple, low water and maintenance landscaping). The IRP encourages continuation of LADWP's water conservation efforts and exploration of additional water conservation opportunities. In addition, the City agrees with the comment on the opportunities for outdoor water use efficiency and is actively exploring conservation methods to address this issue.

023-9

This program should be the catalyst for creating new, community-based jobs, as was the case when LADWP began the successful community-based low-flow toilet distribution program in the early 1990s. Community groups can provide training, outreach, and public works labor, in cost-effective programs delivered in a timely way.

Treatment Wetlands at Compton Creek and Ballona Creek. We prefer to see dry weather urban runoff treated, where possible, in treatment wetlands and thereby adding habitat enhancement, recreation, education and aesthetic values to the water quality benefits for the community.

We are concerned that the City is de-prioritizing treatment wetlands and limiting the use of this important alternative that offers multiple benefits. Given that the City has chosen to implement the IRP in stages, and certify this EIR with a combination of discreet "Project" alternatives mixed in with vague "Program" components, we are concerned that the decision-makers and the public are not being "fully informed." See: "Concerns and Questions" below.

We are particularly concerned with the language regarding a recommended site for a coastal treatment wetland at the Playa Vista site. DEIR § 2.3.2.3, p2-70. The DIER states that privately owned open space is considered "unavailable" and consequently the proposal is not carried forward in the EIR. There is no further reasoning. There is also no analysis of the technical feasibility or environmental benefits of such a proposal.

023-10

For consistency in the IRP and this EIR, we would like to know if all private property, regardless of technical and environmental merits, is excluded from consideration for treatment wetlands and/or URPs – as well as the reasoning for such a prohibition. This would, at least, help inform the public what to expect from the elusive "Program" elements of the DEIR. As the DEIR notes in Section 2.4.3.3, the Regional Water Quality Control Board is considering prioritizing non-structural and non-facility approaches to meeting the Santa Monica Bay Bacteria TMDLs. See: DEIR § 2, p.2-102. This policy consideration would shift an emphasis to treatment wetlands. The exclusion of any opportunity, whether on private land or public, would undermine that objective. At the very least, the public and decision-makers should be fully informed of all feasible alternatives before this DEIR is certified as adequate.

Cisterns and percolation facilities enable communities to capture stormwater runoff and hold it on site for future use or for percolation into groundwater basins. These options reduce the pressure on the sewer system during wet weather; reduce flooding; save water for future use, thus reducing future demand for water; and can improve drinking water quality in groundwater basins.

Concerns and Questions:

023-11

Programmatic vs. project elements. It should be clearer to the reader what adoption of this EIR means by noting on each element what additional review is required prior to

Letter O23. Signatory – Mono Lake Committee

Page 4

As a point of clarification, the promotion of native and drought tolerant plants is not expected to result in significant environmental impacts and would require minimal, if any, environmental review. For water conservation information, refer to www.ladwp.com or www.lacity.org/ead. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O23-9

Comment noted.

Response to Comment O23-10

Runoff from Ballona and Compton Creeks are proposed to be managed with urban runoff plants because the recycled water is expected to be beneficially reused, including reuse as recycled water. Although treatment wetlands would provide water quality benefits, it is not appropriate to treatment wetlands to consistently meet recycled water quality standards. As described in Section 2 of Draft EIR, treatment wetlands are a viable method of improving the quality of urban runoff and would be used where appropriate. The decision to use either urban runoff plants or treatment wetlands would be based on site-specific factors and treatment goals. As such, no specific sites (private or public) have been identified for program-level components, such as treatment wetlands, therefore, subsequent environmental analysis will be conducted once a specific project description and site locale has been determined. As stated in the Draft EIR, the site referenced in the letter is considered unavailable because it has been approved for development (Playa Vista First Phase Project). A policy of using private property for implementing the runoff management features is not in effect, but because no specific locations are currently proposed, site-specific impacts for the runoff features are not discussed in the Draft EIR. If a specific runoff management facility will occur on private property, its associated impacts would be analyzed at a later time. The City intends to prioritize non-structural methods of runoff management, consistent with the TMDL Implementation Plan.

The City agrees with the commenter regarding the potential value of cisterns, and has incorporated cisterns in to Alternatives 1, 2 and 4.

Response to Comment O23-11

Section 2.2.1 of the Draft EIR, Wastewater Treatment and Conveyance (Components Analyzed at a Project Level), describes the wastewater components which are evaluated at a project-level, and Section 2.2.2 Wastewater Conveyance, Recycled Water Facilities, and Runoff System (Components Analyzed at a Program-Level), describes the wastewater, recycled water, and runoff components that are evaluated in the Draft EIR at a program level. In general, the components that are evaluated at a project-level would not require additional environmental review before being implemented, whereas the program-level components would require additional environmental review. Improvements at Hyperion are not expected to require additional environmental review, as the evaluation is conducted at a project level. The program level components are not defined in detail in the Draft EIR because either specific locations have not yet been identified or actual facility design concepts have not yet been formulated. The program-level components are strategies and facilities that will be implemented to meet the project objectives, have not yet been defined at a project-level. As a consequence, the evaluation of impacts for these components are general and not location-specific. The Draft EIR is intended to serve as a tier I type document for the program-level components. When specific project descriptions and locations for each of the program-level components are identified, these would be subject to subsequent environmental review. The level of future environmental documentation cannot be determined at this time, as facility or site information is not yet available. Regarding Hyperion, the biosolids handling and additional clarifiers are analyzed in the Draft EIR at a project-level and no further environmental analysis is anticipated.

As correctly noted, the management of runoff with cisterns, URPs, and treatment wetlands differs from the management of runoff by diverting runoff to the sewer system. The Project Alternatives all provide adequate capacity at the treatment plants to accommodate future wastewater flows and runoff from low-flow diversions that are proposed under each alternative. The need for increased wastewater capacity is explained in the Draft EIR in Sections ES-1.3, ES-1.4, as well as in the referenced IRP Facilities Plan.

Regarding the comment that the analysis of the program-level components is incomplete and represents a deferral of the City's commitment to the program components, the City disagrees with this comment. Program-level analyses are commonly prepared when the overall program is defined but not all components that comprise the program are fully defined. As such, a program-level analysis allows the Lead Agency to consider impacts of the entire program, including cumulative impacts. The impacts discussed in Section 3 of the Draft EIR are disclosed at the component level and aggregated to the system-wide level. As such, the Draft EIR identifies the anticipated impacts of the Project Alternatives as a whole. For the Program-level components, further environmental review may be necessary. The City of Los Angeles is committed to all aspects of the IRP, including the program-level components.

Regarding the question about how much runoff could be diverted to the City's sewer system as part of the low flow diversions, refer to Tables 2-15, 2-18, 2-21, and 2-24, which present the amounts of runoff that could be discharged to the wastewater system for Alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

Response to Comment O23-12

As noted in Section 1.3 of the Draft EIR, two of the project objectives are to meet projected wastewater system needs of the City of Los Angeles and maximize system reliability. As the 1-mile outfall is only used during extremely high flows, the expansion of the Hyperion treatment capacity would serve to increase the plants ability to handle the existing and project flows, which translates to fewer instances of extremely high flows that would require use of the 1-mile outfall. As addressed in Section 3.11.3.2 of the Draft EIR, additional effluent under the proposed expansion at Hyperion would be discharged under the plants NPDES Permit. The Permit discharge requirements and limits are based on criteria in applicable laws and regulations, including those in the Water Quality Control Plan for the receiving body of water (Santa Monica Bay) and 303(d)-listed pollutants. Therefore, additional discharges from Hyperion will be regulated such that there will be no violation of any applicable water quality standards. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O23-13

As addressed in Section 3.5 and Section 3.11 of the Draft EIR, any additional discharge from the expansion of Hyperion would meet current and future discharge requirements; therefore, no significant impact is anticipated to the marine environment. With regards to the Santa Monica Bay being a designated State Marine Park under the California Marine Life Protection Act of 1999, according to the California Department of Fish and Game website for the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/maps.html), Santa Monica Bay is not currently listed as a State Marine Park, Marine Reserve or Marine Conservation Area for Los Angeles County.

Response to Comment O23-14

The reference language from Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR is not an approach to determining the growth inducing impacts of the IRP. The fact that there is current treatment capacity was presented to

O23-11

construction. For example, in Alternative 4, what additional review will there be of the elements to expand the Hyperion biosolids handling capacity or the secondary clarifiers? Generally speaking, the DEIR does not adequately document the impacts of the “Project” components to meet the intent of CEQA to fully inform the public.

Furthermore, the vague and incomplete analysis of the “Program” components of the DEIR, and the deferral of commitment to these program components, precludes a full understanding of the need for the “Project” components. For example, the Program components offer alternatives for wet and dry weather runoff – a range of alternatives from runoff retention in cisterns, URPs, treatment wetlands, etc. These alternatives differ dramatically from the alternative to divert these flows to the sewer system. It is difficult, if not impossible, for the public to be fully informed of the need for the sewage treatment expansion alternatives without fully understanding how much runoff will be diverted to the sewer system.

Hydrology and Water Quality -- *Hyperion Expansion*. The DEIR, in discussing expansion of Hyperion, makes several apparently contradictory statements. The City should clarify the impacts to water quality in the Santa Monica Bay before the DEIR is certified adequate.

O23-12

First, the DEIR states that the current operation of the facility relies on discharges through the “...5-mile outfall and the 1mile outfall during extreme high flows....” DEIR p. 3.11-43. Then the DEIR implies that the expansion of the Hyperion treatment capacity would not cause the facility to discharge effluent through the 1-mile outfall more often than during current operations. It is difficult to imagine that the expansion of the treatment capacity to meet greater inflows would not cause the facility to rely on the 1-mile outfall more often than is currently occurring.

Second, the DEIR cites the Santa Monica Bay as listed under CWA § 303(d) as an impaired water body. Yet, the DEIR seems to imply that greater discharges from Hyperion to the Santa Monica Bay will not exacerbate the impairment and will not complicate the City’s attaining water quality limits. This needs further explanation before the DEIR can be considered adequate.

O23-13

Finally, the DEIR is effectively void of any information regarding the impacts of the increased discharge from an expansion of Hyperion on marine species and ecosystems. The DIER fails to fully inform the public and decision-makers without a thorough analysis of these foreseeable impacts. Also, it should be noted in the DEIR that the Santa Monica Bay is designated as a State Marine Park under the authority of the California Marine Life Protection Act, and as such is an attractive recreational fishing area.

O23-14

Growth Issues. The DEIR states that the City has ample sewage treatment capacity for current and near term housing and employment development. See DEIR at § 4.2.3, p2.3. The DIER concludes that, because excess treatment capacity currently exists, treatment capacity “...does not constitute an obstruction to land use growth.” Id.

This approach to determining growth inducing impacts seems contradictory to the purpose of both the program and project components analyzed in the EIR. If there is no current constraint to land use growth, why are we expanding sewage treatment capacity?

Furthermore, previous EIRs certified by the City have confirmed that a single development proposal would exceed existing capacity at Hyperion during wet-weather conditions. See e.g., Playa Vista Phase 2 EIR. In that case, the City argued that the development proposal would not create environmental impacts because the project would not get a permit to connect to the sewer system until treatment capacity was available. Id. The City further argued that the issuance of sewer permits was constrained by the Sewer Permit Allocation Ordinance. Now, this DEIR seems to argue that the Sewer Permit Allocation Ordinance is no longer controlling.

Simply put, before certifying this DEIR, the City must reconcile the statements regarding “growth inducement” in this DEIR with past EIRs for housing development proposals.

O23-14

Project Objectives. We generally support the list of Project Objectives in the Executive Summary. DEIR, p.ES-3. Nonetheless, we have several recommendations we believe will clarify and improve the objectives – leading to a truly holistic “integrated” approach.

O23-15

First, the list includes the objective to “Enhance public lands where possible.” The list also includes objectives: Provide services cost effectively; Maximize economic benefits to Los Angeles, and; Maximize external funding opportunities. We believe these objectives would be more consistent if the first was amended to read: Enhance public lands, *and acquire private property for public benefit*, where possible. It is our belief that federal and state funding for land acquisition is available to meet the goals of the IRP. We also believe that land acquisition for treatment wetlands and other alternatives should be thoroughly considered before the overall program is considered to be maximizing economic benefits, cost effective, and/or maximizing funding opportunities.

Second, the Project Objectives lists: “Conform to sustainability guidelines of the City.” We recommend appending these sustainability guidelines to the DEIR.

O23-16

Environmentally Superior Alternative: The DEIR has concluded that Alternative 1 is the “Environmentally Superior Alternative” (ESA). However, the reasoning for this conclusion is inadequate.

Again, it is difficult to conclude the ESA without a more thorough analysis of the “programmatic” components of the IRP. Simply analyzing the sewage treatment build-out “project” component, outside the context of the other critical components of the IRP, precludes an adequate conclusion. For example, the acreage employed in treatment wetlands, and their location within the Hyperion Service Area, could dramatically alter the environmental benefits of expansion at the Hyperion Treatment Facility.

show that existing wastewater treatment capacity is not currently impeding land use development growth, as it has in the past (see reference to the Sewer Permit Allocation Ordinance on page 4-2 of the Draft EIR). The approach to determining the growth-inducing impacts of the Project Alternatives is contained in Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR that follows the section referenced by the commenter. Because adequate treatment capacity currently exists, increases in treatment capacity would not immediately occur. As indicated in Section 2.4.1 and Section 4.2.4.2 of the Draft EIR, there are drivers, or triggers, that will determine the sequencing of facility construction. The implementation of the proposed improvements contained within the Recommended Alternative would be based on the triggers, whether demand based or regulatory in nature. As described in Section 4.2 of the Draft EIR, implementation of the selected alternative would only occur when conditions warrant expansion of treatment capacity; therefore, the Project Alternatives are not expected to result in a substantial surplus of wastewater treatment capacity. Consequently, growth-inducing impacts are not anticipated.

Regarding the comment about the Playa Vista Project, that project would still have to comply with the Sewer Permit Allocation Ordinance. However, unlike the situation when Hyperion was undergoing conversion to full secondary treatment, there are no current treatment capacity shortfalls at Hyperion. Consequently, wastewater treatment capacity at Hyperion is not impeding development of the Playa Vista Project.

Response to Comment O23-15

The project objectives were developed with stakeholder involvement. The City will aggressively pursue funding opportunities for various IRP components. Regarding land acquisition for treatment wetlands, treatment wetlands are an IRP component that is considered a programmatic element of the Project Alternatives. The City will reserve the possibility of land acquisitions for developing treatment wetlands, but would do so on a case-by-case basis.

Furthermore, reclaimed water production and storage in the upper-watershed may dramatically reduce the energy consumption from eventual delivery of that water. This energy savings would mitigate the concern about energy consumption that is the basis of the determination of the ESA.

Also, the DEIR seems to conclude that, because treating wastewater to a higher effluent standard for inland discharges is more energy demanding, it is an inferior alternative. For those of us concerned about ocean water quality, this analysis seems too narrow. While energy consumption and associated impacts to the environment are certainly important, they are not the only consideration. Impacts to ocean water quality, coastal land use, coastal habitat, etc are all equally important and should be thoroughly documented before an adequate conclusion on the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

It is also important to consider the cumulative impacts to air quality in determining the ESA. In the case of Hyperion, the treatment facility is located adjacent to a major international airport, several major coastal generators, a major oil refinery, and general automobile traffic congestion. These adjacent facilities and other considerations create a “background” air quality problem that would only be exacerbated by the expansion of the Hyperion treatment facility. While the generation of electricity to serve an expanded facility may or may not impact the cumulative air quality locally, the construction and operation of an expanded Hyperion facility will.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and we look forward to working with you as you prepare the document for the Los Angeles City Council.

Sincerely,

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If such acquisitions are considered on a site-specific basis, project-level impacts related to the future treatment wetlands and land acquisitions would be subject to additional environmental review. The sustainability guidelines of the City are referenced in the IRP Facilities Plan, which is also referenced in the Draft EIR. Comment noted.

Response to Comment O23-16

The Environmentally Superior Alternative, described in Section 4 of the Draft EIR, was developed based on the potential to result in significant impacts discussed in the Draft EIR. Although other Alternatives other than Alternative 1 would provide benefits such as potentially increased recycled water use, these alternatives would likely result in slightly higher adverse impacts than Alternative 1, as identified in the Draft EIR. Because the Draft EIR focuses on adverse impacts, the selection of the Environmentally Superior Alternative is based solely on adverse impact, rather than potential benefits. As the energy consumption and associated air emissions of the various project-level components were quantified, this was the best means of determining the Environmentally Superior Alternative. Regarding the comment that recycled water usage could result in some offsets in energy by reducing the amount of potable water that would have to be imported, refer to response to comment AJ3-34.

However, it should also be noted that the beneficial aspects of the Project Alternatives have been considered in the identification of Alternative 4 as the Recommended Alternative described in Section 1.5 of this Final EIR.

Regarding the comment about consideration of cumulative air impacts in the vicinity of Hyperion in the determination of the Environmentally Superior Alternative, it should be noted that the primary difference between improvements at Hyperion between the Alternatives is that under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, Hyperion improvements would include a new truck loading facility, new digesters, and two new secondary clarifier modules. Under Alternative 1, Hyperion improvement would include the same

facilities plus an extra module of secondary clarifiers. The difference in construction and operational emission between the two scenarios for Hyperion improvements would be marginal and would not likely result in differences in cumulative air quality in the vicinity of Hyperion among the Alternatives.

Submitted by email + Fax 4:43 PM
3/31/2006

ADDITIONAL DRAFT EIR COMMENTS, L.A. City Integrated Resources Plan

From Rex Frankel, director,
Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
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310-572-6491
3/31/2006

What is the monthly cost to each household for the IRP, which does not include costs for full citywide TMDL compliance, and for how many years will it be charged to ratepayers? According to Facilities Plan Volume 3 page 8-18, the IRP's cost, which ranges between \$2.9 and \$3.2 billion, it is stated that single family "lifecycle costs" will range from \$90 to \$96 per month. What is the monthly cost to each ratepayer of full citywide TMDL compliance based on using conventional treatment plants, as detailed in alternative LR1,(in Facilities Plan volume 4, subvolume 2) and for which a total cost is stated as \$9.3 billion?

How is it that then Draft EIR (page 2-61) states that no treatment wetlands are allowed within 10,000 feet of the perimeter of LAX while the City has recently permitted the construction of the Playa Vista treatment wetland, known as the "freshwater marsh", at the intersection of Lincoln and Jefferson Blvds? Clearly, this site is within the 10,000 foot perimeter. This is not a plausible reason to rule out consideration of a treatment wetland in the east end of the Playa Vista parcel D, as was called for in our letter on the Notice of Preparation.

What are the 831 acres of land, which includes "vacant urban lots" in the east San Fernando Valley that the Facilities Plan (volume 3 page 7-13) considers available for recharge sites currently used for? The Final EIR should include a map of the sites that make up these 831 acres.

In the discussion of treatment wetland loading rates, (facilities plan volume 3, page 6-18) in which rates are stated as varying from 2 to 10 cm per day, do open water treatment wetlands require 5 times as much land area as subsurface flow constructed wetlands to treat the same amount of flow? If a citywide network of seasonal storage (as described in facilities plan volume 3 page 7-20) is used for all of the runoff that is targeted for capture citywide, and the runoff is treated all year-round, how many acres of both open water and subsurface flow treatment wetlands would be needed to treat this runoff to standards of either discharge or beneficial use?

Rex Frankel

Letter O24. Signatory – Ballona Ecosystem Education Project

Response to Comment O24-1

Information regarding the total costs and ratepayer costs for the various Project Alternatives will be available during the EIR certification and project approval process. Estimated total costs and ratepayer costs for the Alternative 4, which is the Recommended Alternative, are currently being prepared based on detailed Capital Improvement Program scheduling. This information will be made available during the project approval process.

Response to Comment O24-2

The Playa Vista treatment wetland is not a part of the IRP. Section 2.2.2.5 of the Draft EIR states that treatment wetlands that are part of the IRP would not be located in the air operations area of the potentially affected airport as defined in the FAA Advisory Circular No. 150/5200-33A. Regarding the question about the Playa Vista wetlands, the FAA circular includes provisions for a safety assessment of wildlife attractants within the recommended buffer distance, and the referenced wetlands may have been sited following such an evaluation.

Response to Comment O24-3

Although the IRP Facilities Plan considered areas of potential replenishment, among other things, as described in Section 1.2.2 and Section 3.1.2 of the Draft EIR, no specific sites (only preliminary) have been identified for program-level components, such as wet weather runoff - non-urban regional recharge, therefore, subsequent environmental analysis will be conducted once a specific project description and site locale has been determined.

Response to Comment O24-4

The treatment wetlands component would use both surface and subsurface wetlands, but the decision to use either or both technologies would be based on site-specific factors and treatment goals. In addition, various types of treatment wetlands technologies are available, and such systems are dynamic in that the design

configurations, plant palette, wetlands type (surface or subsurface), enhancements, etc. all contribute the effectiveness of the wetlands. As such, treatment flow rates and wetlands acreage will significantly vary and cannot be determined without site-specific parameters, including treatment objectives. Because of this, exact acreage estimates cannot be developed at this time. As described under response to comment O24-3, above, no specific sites have been identified for program-level components, such as dry weather runoff - treatment wetlands, therefore, subsequent environmental analysis will be conducted once a specific project description and site locale has been determined.

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From: <winter@theriverproject.org>
To: <irp-eir@san.lacity.org>
Date: Fri, Mar 31, 2006 8:18 PM
Subject: comments

Attached please find comments from

Melanie WInter
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The River Project

Letter O25. Signatory – The River Project, Director



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March 31, 2006

**Comments on the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau
of Sanitation and Department of Water and Power
INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Re: Qualified Support for Alternative 4

The River Project would like to offer our qualified support for Alternative 4: Tillman Expansion (to 100mgd) with Cisterns as the preferred alternative.

We incorporate by reference the comments offered jointly by ADRO, Inc., Asian American Drug Abuse Program, California Water Impact Network, Dorothy Green, Mono Lake Committee, Southern California Watershed Alliance and Surfrider Foundation.

We also offer the following additional comments:

Regarding proposed new sewer alignments, we strongly oppose inclusion of Woodbridge Park as an alternative during construction, and also urge you to consider the long-term implications of constructing a sewer line under the Los Angeles River in a reach that has strong restoration potential.

Approaches to treatment of dry weather runoff in tributary streams in the San Fernando Valley should include consideration of sand filters, infiltration trenches, and in the long term – particularly in the case of Pacoima Wash – reclamation of the natural, sandy streambed to address both contaminants (see Regional Water Quality Control Board Metals TMDL for the LA River) and groundwater recharge, among other benefits. Treatment wetlands are not always the most appropriate approach in the San Fernando Valley, and construction of urban runoff plants should only be considered as a last resort.

Furthermore, we would like to elaborate on three comments made in the above referenced joint letter. The first regarding the City Council receiving accompanying recommendations for important changes needed in Los Angeles' building codes that will allow on-site stormwater management and improved dry weather runoff management; the second regarding the City Council receiving an itemized list of potential funding opportunities to be leveraged through integrated management activities; and the third regarding the recommendation to develop a parallel outreach plan.

Through our participation on the IRP Steering Committee, we are aware of numerous policies, ordinances, building codes, and planning department procedures that were specifically identified by stakeholders and IRP staff as 'stumbling blocks' to implementation of Leadership Projects and to the IRP overall.

Letter O25. Signatory – The River Project, Director

Page 2

Response to Comment O25-1

Comment noted. Refer to response to comment O21-1 regarding concerns related to use of Woodbridge Park. Regarding a suggested Los Angeles River alignment, refer to response to comment AJ31-2.

Response to Comment O25-2

As described in Section 1 of the Draft EIR, the IRP is a plan for the City of Los Angeles to provide for its wastewater needs, while integrating water management techniques. Although the IRP components were based on an extensive facilities plan process, the components carried through as components analyzed in the Draft EIR do not limit or hinder the City from pursuing other alternatives or methods of water conservation or management. The use of treatment wetlands or URPs to improve the quality of dry weather urban runoff would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and if determined to be feasible, cost effective, and meet the goals of the project, would be further considered for implementation. These components of the Recommended Alternative would not preclude the use of other runoff quality management alternatives. Comment noted.

O25-1

O25-2

Letter O25. Signatory – The River Project, Director
Page 3

Response to Comment O25-3

Comment noted.

In addition, numerous Steering Committee are active participants in other compatible efforts such as the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan; Prop O; the evolving ASCE countywide funding strategy; and the Ballona, Arroyo Seco, Compton Creek, Sun Valley, Upper Los Angeles River and Tujunga Watershed Management Plans.

An IRP Policy Alignment Group comprised of those stakeholders who expressed interest in following through on these issues at the October Steering Committee meeting should be convened by Commissioner Daniels to work with IRP staff to produce documents that provide the City Council with specific guidance and recommendations.

Similarly, we encourage the IRP staff to continue working with both the Management Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee to both develop and implement the parallel outreach plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and we look forward to continuing this important work together.



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O25-3

1911

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February 27, 2006

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) SCH No. 2004071091, SCAG No. 120040466

While the Sierra Club is generally in favor of the most water/energy efficient solution (including maximum recycling) for any project, The Central Group of the Chapter wishes to address the specifics of potential park land use in this proposal's alternatives that involve choosing routes for the Northeast Interceptor Sewer (NEIS II) and the Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer (GBIS).

Of grave concern is the potential for permanent loss of public parkland for one or more air treatment facilities (1-2 acres for each) if the NEIS II West and GBIS South routes are chosen. NEIS II West would necessitate a loss of picnic grounds if the Griffith Park Pecan Grove shaft site were chosen. The GBIS South route would take park from both the Travel Town area of Griffith Park as well as possibly Woodbridge Park.

O27-1

On the other hand NEIS II East and GBIS North routes could avoid all park impacts by placing the NEIS II terminus at Brazil Street and by GBIS using the North Hollywood Caltrans Yard instead of Woodbridge Park.

Potential impacts to parkland and the recreation involved there have not been properly addressed in this DEIR. Hundreds of people who regularly picnic in the potentially affected sites have not been counted. In addition there is a possibility for twice the impact- the loss of two acres for a treatment plant is twice as much as one.

O27-2

The Central Group opposes the loss of any urban core parkland and for that reason urges you to select the NEIS II and GBIS alternatives that will cause NO damage to recreation and sorely needed valuable parkland. These are alternatives NEIS II East with Brazil Street as the terminus and GBIS North with the North Hollywood Caltrans Yard (as opposed to Woodbridge Park) for shaft sites.

O27-3

The introduction of the "hybrid alternative" at this late date is troublesome and we feel not adequately studied to be included for comments. A supplemental EIR must be prepared if this alternative is to be considered.

Sincerely,

Sallie W. Neubauer, Vice Chair
Central Group

To: Mar 31, 2006
EIR # 2004071091 Comments
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From:
Sallie W. Neubauer
Central Grp, Sierra Club
222 111-0151 (ph+fx)

Letter O27. Signatory – Sierra Club Angeles Chapter – Central Group

Response to Comment O27-1

As described in response to comment O21-1, various issue and resource portions of Section 3 of the Draft EIR address in detail the potential impacts of the construction of shaft sites and the operation of aboveground facilities (i.e., ATFs) as it relates to the potential aesthetic, land use and recreational impacts on adjacent land uses. Project features and mitigation measures (such as AES-MM-3, AES-MM-4, REC-MM-3 and REC-MM-5) have been included to reduce the impacts of the project by locating the construction and operation such that the location least affects the recreational resource. Specifically, Sections 3.16.2.2 and 3.16.2.3 of the Draft EIR addresses in great detail the potential impacts of construction and operation of proposed shaft sites and ATFs on parkland/recreation. In addition, refer to comment letter O16 for the City's Los Angeles Zoo Department's preferences. Section 1.5 of this Final EIR details the Recommended Alternative, including the staff recommended NEIS II and GBIS alignments (including recommended options and shaft sites). Comments noted.

Response to Comment O27-2

Neither of the NEIS II and GBIS alignments completely avoids recreational areas. Impacts to recreation, as well as all the other environmental issues addressed in the Draft EIR, were taken into consideration when determining the Recommended Alternative, including the staff recommended NEIS II and GBIS alignments (refer to Section 1.5 of this Final EIR for details).

Response to Comment O27-3

Refer to response to comment AJ13-2.

Received:
4/4/06

1944

Verdugo Hills SC

March 30, 2006

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for
Los Angeles Integrated Resources Plan (IRP)
Glendale-Burbank Interceptor Sewer (GBIS) component

Dear Jawahar P. Shah:

We have serious concerns about deficiencies in the DEIR for the new City of Los Angeles IRP released in November by the Public Works (Bureau of Sanitation) and Water and Power departments. Most have been thoroughly addressed through the comment letters submitted by the City of Burbank and others, which we largely support.

What we find particularly alarming though is the so-called "hybrid" of the north and south alignments of the GBIS.

Regardless of its merits, introducing the "hybrid" separate from and much later than the DEIR, thus circumventing proper CEQA processes, is wholly inappropriate. Such a proposal might well have been included in future revisions of the DEIR or EIR. However, presenting it as an end run around proper process disallows sufficient time for and appropriate consideration of its merits.

Interestingly, the "hybrid" leaves untouched that portion of the southern alignment going through Griffith Park. Yet it circumvents a much less intensely used golf course, and goes through residential areas where the health and quality of life risks to residents are far greater. Also, judging by the map in the DEIR, zones of liquefaction tend to be further north in the potentially impacted areas. The "hybrid" proposal routes the GBIS needlessly north.

We look forward to the removal of this "hybrid" of questionable value from consideration, at least until it can be properly introduced, substantiated, mapped, and subjected to proper CEQA process.

Respectfully,

Delphine Trowbridge
Sierra Club- Angeles Chapter-
Verdugo Hills Group Chair

Letter O28. Signatory – Sierra Club Angeles Chapter – Verdugo Hills Group

Response to Comment O28-1

Regarding the comment expressing concerns about the Draft EIR, please see the responses to comment letters submitted by the City of Burbank (AJ1, AJ13, AJ22, AJ30, AJ31, AJ32, and AJ36).

Regarding the comments about how the "hybrid" alignment, please see Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR for a description and discussion of the staff recommended GBIS Alignment (same as the referenced hybrid alignment) and the responses to comment letter AJ13. One of the purposes of key functions of CEQA is to allow public review and input on Draft EIRs to identify additional mitigation measures and to identify ways to avoid impacts. The staff recommended GBIS Alignment described in Section 1.5.2.2 would accomplish this and result in a substantial reduction in potential impacts discussed in the Draft EIR, and specifically addresses many of the concerns expressed by other jurisdictions and members of the public that submitted comments on GBIS during the 120-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIR. The staff recommended GBIS Alignment is therefore considered consistent with the spirit and intent of CEQA.

Response to Comment O28-2

The staff recommended GBIS Alignment would use the western portion of the GBIS North Alignment described in the Draft EIR and would be constructed from the same shaft sites identified for the GBIS South Alignment in the Draft EIR. The potential health effects from construction and operation of the GBIS alignments are discussed in Section 3.4 Air Quality and Section 3.10, Hazardous Materials. As discussed in the Draft EIR, significant health effects associated with tunneling are not anticipated. In addition, refer to response to comment AJ2, which addresses concerns about potential health effects associated with contaminated groundwater in the City of Burbank. The Draft EIR (Section 3.4) identifies a potential for localized air quality impacts related to exceedances of the CAAQS and NAAQS during construction; however, because the staff recommended GBIS

Alignment would use the Caltrans Maintenance Yard Shaft Site for construction, the potential for localized impacts to residents would be minimal. Related to this, all of the GBIS alignments would use this terminating shaft site and therefore, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment (which uses the western portion of the GBIS North Alignment) would not result in greater potential for health impacts, as suggested by the commenter. In addition, because the majority of the construction activities for the western portion of all GBIS alignments would occur at a shaft site (Caltrans Maintenance Yard Shaft Site) that is common to all of the GBIS alignments, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment would not result in greater quality of life impacts to residents than the GBIS South Alignment, as suggested by the commenter. Regarding the comment about liquefaction, as discussed on page 3.9-50 in Section 3.9 of the Draft EIR, GBIS would be located at depths beneath soils susceptible to liquefaction. Lastly, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment is not needlessly routed to the north, as suggested by the commenter. Rather, the staff recommended GBIS Alignment addresses concerns expressed about the eastern portion of the GBIS North Alignment and specifically routes the eastern portion of the alignment to the south. In addition, as discussed in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR, the western portion of the staff recommended GBIS Alignment uses the western portion of the GBIS South Alignment due to contingency response issues.



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Example 1: Growth

As of February 2006, the Association espoused a viable alternative line that should be sought, this before the first disclosure of the first plan, the Hybrid Plan (without due Notice and any EIR Report attached to it) on Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, at the meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the GTL Neighborhood Council, and our association, held at our local HoneyBaked Ham restaurant, Riverside Drive. Please read the accompanying Association's FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER* on our position at that point in time. Further, the Association commends the City of Burbank on its proposed March 30th letter to you, copy* enclosed and to which a March 28th Memo* from a

March 29, 2006

Jawahar P. Shah, Coordinator
Bureau of Sanitation
WESD.
2714 Media Center Drive
Los Angeles CA 90065

Dear Mr. Shah: re: IRP/GBJS Plan

re: IRP/GBIS Plan

The Toluca Lake Homeowners Association, representing members who are residents in Toluca Lake which stretches across Clybourn that separates both cities, opposes at this point in time all three plans that have been generated to date – the North and South Alignment and the Hybrid Plans. All of them should be taken off the table for any consideration whatsoever. Potential serious impact to residential homes and properties are facing any one of these plans; such impacts show no partiality to any one jurisdiction or body politic – Mother Nature sees to that.

1907

Letter O29. Signatory – Toluca Lake Homeowners Association

Response to Comment O29-1

Your opposition to the GBIS alignments is noted. The project impacts for the GBIS alignments are discussed under the various impact discussions in Section 3 of the Draft EIR, and in Section 1.5.2.2 of this Final EIR.

Response to Comment O29-2

The comment refers to the Toluca Lake Homeowners Association dated December 1, 2005 in which the association recommended a GBIS alignment along the Los Angeles River. For a response to this issue, refer to response to comment AJ31-2.

Q29-1

029-2

Jawahar P. Shah, Coordinator
Bureau of Sanitation
Los Angeles CA

Page 2 of 2
March 29, 2006

consulting Geologist firm [Richard C. Slade & Associates] is attached. The conclusion drawn is that a public agency "should not approve a project where feasible alternatives would substantially lessen significant environmental impacts," and the Association urges you to perform a CEQA analysis of additional alignment alternatives, including one under the current channeled Los Angeles River. Certainly, being done now at a time much earlier than start of construction in 2010 is much to be desired. The Association is in agreement with this conclusion.

As a personal observation, the undersigned suggests that both cities' representatives contact the Army Corp of Engineers, which controls the right-of-way of at least the portion of the river suitable for location of the proposed sewer line. It may very well have significant geological data on the soil in that vicinity of the river and which could be helpful towards arriving at a suitable alternative to the present plans any one of which could potentially impact residential areas.

Respectfully,



Frank L. Zugelter, Pres.

cc: (with attachments*)

Councilman Thomas LaBonge, CD # 4

Burbank City Council

Toluca Lake Chamber of Commerce

Attn: Richard Bogy, Gov. Affairs Chair
Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council

O29-3

O29-4

Letter O29. Signatory – Toluca Lake Homeowners Association

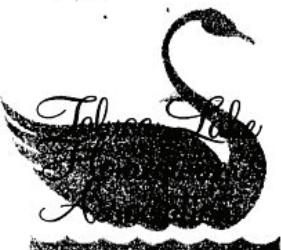
Page 2

Response to Comment O29-3

Regarding the desire for a CEQA analysis of a GBIS alignment along the Los Angeles River, refer to response to comment AJ31-2 and AJ31-4.

Response to Comment O29-4

Comment noted. Because the staff recommended GBIS Alignment would cross the Los Angeles River near Forest Lawn Drive and Pass Avenue, coordination with the Army Corp of Engineers will occur during the design process.



Established 1964

FEBRUARY 2006
ALERT
TOLUCA LAKE TARGETED FOR MAJOR SEWER PROJECT

Frank L Zugelter
10109 Toluca Lake Ave
Toluca Lake CA 91602



Letter O29. Signatory – Toluca Lake Homeowners Association

Page 3

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Recently, public hearings were held for a major sewer project proposal called the **Integrated Resources Plan (IRP)**. Many members of our community may not have received notice of this proposed project or subsequent hearings. Prepared by the city, the EIR Report for this plan focuses heavily on the Toluca Lake community and is fraught with major issues which could affect us for many years.

One alternative (the GBIS South Alignment) begins near the L. A. Zoo, continues down Forest Lawn Drive, to Barham Blvd, then west beneath the Los Angeles river (through Lakeside Golf Club) onto Valley Spring Lane, then north along the 101, west along Moorpark ending at or near Woodbridge Park (This is an approximate route.)

The second alternative (the GBIS North Alignment) proposes a route from the L. A. Zoo, through the Rancho neighborhood of Burbank, then west on Riverside Drive and again ending at or near Woodbridge Park. (This is an approximate route.) The residents of Burbank have sent hundreds of letters in opposition to this alternative and have the support of the Mayor of Burbank and the Burbank City Council to push this project into our community (South Alignment)

Frank L. Zugelter The proposed project is major construction and would significantly impact our neighborhood for many, many months ... perhaps years. These impacts will include, but would not be limited to:

- air quality (sewage odors and pollutants)
- ground settlement near homes and in streets
- noise and vibration
- excessive traffic
- possible declining property values.

The proposal includes tunneling in most areas and above ground in others. Single family homes and occupants will be affected.

It is critical for all of us to voice our concerns to Councilman Tom LaBonge and to insist the City of Los Angeles put more effort into finding another alternative that will upgrade the city's sewer infrastructure without having a detrimental and disruptive effect on our neighborhoods. **The existing L.A. River south of the river right-of-way to Woodbridge Park is a viable alternative** (the EIR already proposes a section of the route beneath the river).